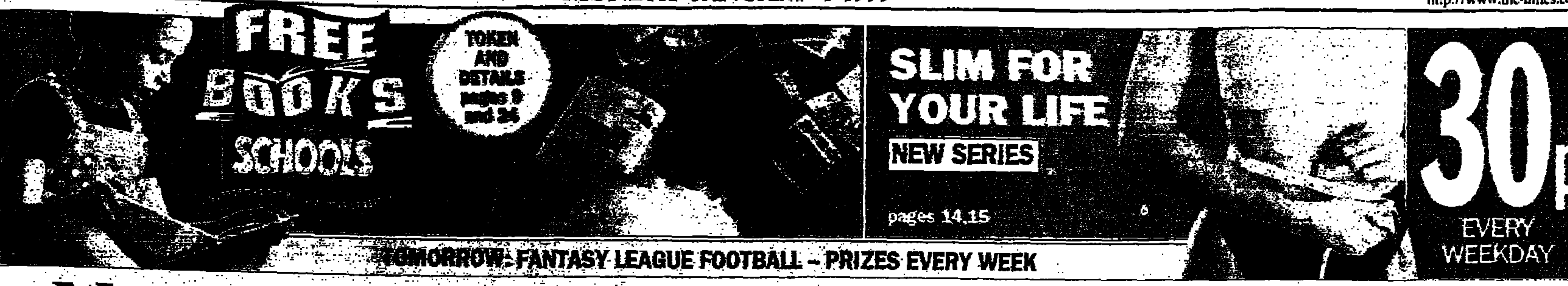
THE TIMES

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New turmoil hits Clinton over prostitute's son

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE teenage son of a black Arkansas prostitute is awaiting the results of a DNA test to determine if he was fathered by President Clinton, it was reported yesterday.

The new claim came as the Senate wrangled over how to proceed with an impeachment trial of Mr Clinton for high crimes and misdemeanours relating to his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Danny Williams, 13, whose mother Bobbie Ann has long insisted that he was the product of one of a number of sexual encounters with Mr Clinton, was said to be in hiding last night with representatives of *The Star*, a supermarket tabloid newspaper.

According to Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip columnist who introduced the world to Monica Lewinsky, the boy was persuaded by *The Star* to supply a sample of his DNA, but the results of a comparison with Mr Clinton's DNA is not yet known. The prospect of such a test presented itself when Mr Clinton provided DNA that was used to prove that it was his semen on Monica Lewinsky's dress.

It was unclear last night whether *The Star* had obtained a sample of Mr Clinton's DNA or was intending to compare the Williams sample with the detailed genetic information about Mr Clinton contained in the report from Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. Mr Drudge reported that such records were 99 per cent accurate.

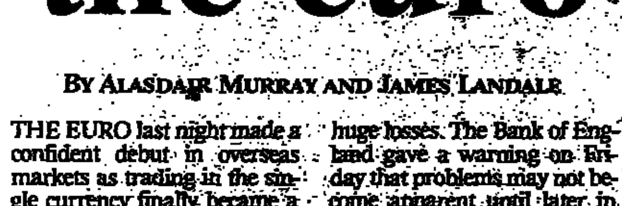
Ms Williams has claimed that Mr Clinton paid her for sex on several occasions when he was Governor of Arkansas and she was a prostitute in Little Rock. She passed a lie detector test and has been co-operating with Richard Gooding, the reporter responsible for breaking the story that Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's former adviser, consorted with prostitutes. The White House declined to comment last night on the report.

The emergence of another woman in the President's life came as senators argued over how to try him on charges arising from his affair with Ms Lewinsky. With it looking almost certain, barring new developments, that the required two thirds of the 100-member Senate will not remove Mr Clinton from office by voting to convict him on the two articles of impeachment, the disagreement among senators is over how quickly to rid themselves of the case.

Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, has proposed that the trial should be opened, probably next Monday, and that the prosecutors from the House of Representatives and the White House defence team should be allowed a day each to argue their cases, for and against conviction. The Senate would then have a day to ask questions before voting on whether its members believe that the facts of the case, if true, warrant the President's removal from office.

If anything less than two thirds of senators are of that view, it is likely that a full trial with witnesses and explicit evidence would be abandoned and that Mr Clinton would receive a firm rebuke in the form of a censure motion.

Markets give a boost to the euro



BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE EURO last night made a confident debut in overseas markets as trading in the single currency finally became a reality.

Full-scale trading kicked off in Sydney, the first major currency market to reopen following the new year break, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price. Japanese traders, who were at their desks from 3am local time, also reported the euro gaining against the yen.

For most of the 300 million people covered by the single currency, however, the euro's birth offered no drama as they recovered from new year festivities with little to show for the leap to currency union.

From Dublin to Rome, euro pioneers enjoyed the novelty of writing cheques and using euro credit cards in restaurants and supermarkets, but the practice remains optional until euro notes and coins appear in January 2002. The first euro-denominated postage stamps and bank statements also appeared.

The markets are expecting the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as investors and Central Banks shift an estimated thousand billion dollars out of other currencies such as the dollar and sterling and into the euro.

Trading, however, is likely to be cautious in the first few days with many banks worried that systems problems and human error could cause huge losses. The Bank of England gave a warning on Friday that problems may not become apparent until later in the week.

The pound is likely to face an especially bumpy ride as it is now trapped between the dollar and the euro. Analysts are divided on whether investors will sell the pound for the euro — bringing relief to hard-pressed exporters — or will continue to view the pound as an attractive "safe haven".

Sydney traders quoted an opening price of $1.1747 compared with the European Commission's conversion price of $1.1685. The euro also gained against the pound, climbing from 70.54p to 70.80p.

European Union leaders, most of them now from left-wing governments, are worried that too fast an appreciation in the value of the euro, while reassuring the markets, could undermine their job creation efforts.

Anti-euro campaigners, meanwhile, stepped up their campaign against British membership of the single currency. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary, unveiled the launch of a group of leading pro-Europeans opposed to the euro.

Members, who include Lord Prior, the former Tory Cabinet minister, and Martin Taylor, the former Barclays chief executive, are currently drawing up a paper outlining their economic and political opposition to the euro.

Bankers flirt, page 5
Trading begins, page 48



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STEPHEN DANIELS



About 500 wellwishers were on hand when the Queen led members of the Royal Family out of Sandringham Church yesterday, but the spectator to really catch the party's attention was Bryan Firth — thanks to his grizzly bear coat (writes Michael Harvey).

In her 98 years, the Queen Mother had never seen anything quite like it. The greatcoat, made from a bear pelt, was keeping off the rain as Mr Firth, 73, waited with a friend. He

A Mounties' coat catches royal eye

was spotted first by Prince Philip who commented: "What a wonderful coat". The Prince drew it to the attention of the Queen Mother, who spoke to Mr Firth, right. Equally taken by the shaggy coat — worn by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and about 80 years old — she called to the others, including Prince Charles and Prince Harry, to have a look.

Mr Firth, a former racing commentator, of Great Bircham, near King's Lynn, said that the coat "was standard issue to the Mounties in the 20s and 30s. It is excellent if the weather is cold and wet like it is today. The rain just rolls off."



Switch from grammars 'will cost £500m'

BY JAMES LANDALE AND JOHN O'LEARY

EDUCATION authorities could be forced to take more than half a billion pounds out of frontline teaching budgets to pay for transforming grammar schools into comprehensives.

The substantial costs of reorganising schools if parents vote to make them comprehensive are disclosed in internal council documents obtained by *The Times*.

Education officials at Kent County Council, which runs a fifth of the remaining grammar schools, have estimated that turning them into comprehensives would cost £150 million. The Tories last night claimed that if the costs were mirrored across the country, local education authorities would have to find £500 million to pay for the move.

They said the hidden costs, which could lead to cuts in teachers' pay, books and equipment, were an "unexploded timebomb" underneath the Government's decision last year to give parents the choice to end selection in their schools. Labour accused the Tories of "scaremongering".

The controversy set the stage for a series of battles across the country between campaigners struggling to preserve grammar schools and those keen to scrap selection.

Under last year's Schools Standards and Framework Act, parents have the right to change the status of Britain's 164 fully selective schools. Twenty per cent of eligible parents must sign a petition by July before a ballot - requiring a simple majority - can take place in the autumn. The Government has refused to offer any extra money to pay for the cost of reorganisation.

The paper, drawn up in December by Kent education officials, gives warning of the "substantial costs" of changing their 33 grammar schools to comprehensives. The costs will be high because many grammar schools are too small to become comprehensive and would be forced to amalgamate. This would involve many schools having to close down, sell their properties, and move to new locations big enough to take in pupils from several former grammar schools.

Costs would also be incurred by resulting changes in transport arrangements, such as increased and reorganised school bus runs, and by redundancy payments to sacked teachers.

Damian Green, a Tory education spokesman, said: "Those costs will come from the reorganisation that will be required because a significant proportion of grammar schools are too small simply to become comprehensives. Ofsted has recommended that to be a successful comprehensive, you need at least 900 pupils." Labour councillors on Kent education authority have demanded that the estimate be withdrawn from the report.

Leading article, page 21

Safety signal for Charlie Whelan

The future of Gordon Brown's press aide Charlie Whelan looked more secure after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was entirely in the hands of Mr Brown ....Page 2

Sharif escapes bridge bombers

Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, narrowly escaped assassination yesterday. A bomb exploded under a bridge outside the Punjabi capital of Lahore shortly before Mr Sharif and his family crossed it.

Members of the Muttahida Quami movement, whose supporters are Urdu-speaking, were arrested ....Page 13

United Cup win

Manchester United came from behind to beat Middlesbrough 3-1 in the Third Round of the FA Cup yesterday. They will meet Liverpool in the next round ....Page 25

Two die as 75mph winds batter the South

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

TWO people died yesterday and 25 weekend sailors were rescued from the sea as heavy rain, high seas and 75mph winds battered southern England, felling trees and power lines and tearing boats from their moorings.

Scattered showers and sunny breaks are forecast today in the South, but prolonged rain and gale-force winds are expected in northern England and Scotland.

Robert Bridger, 70, was crushed to death when an oak tree fell on him in his garden at Bolney, in West Sussex. His grandson, Robert Thomson, 11, escaped injury by running to safety.

In Somerset a 51-year-old man was killed as he walked along the canal towpath in Bridgwater. It is thought he was hit by parts of a tin roof.

Twenty five people were plucked from the sea by lifeboats off the Essex coast. The annual three-quarter-mile Brass Monkeys dinghy race, by the Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club, was abandoned within 15 minutes after winds overturned nearly all 14 starters. A woman out walking with friends at Brown Candover, near New Alresford in Hampshire, suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked unconscious by a falling tree.

Brighton's Palace Pier was evacuated as heavy seas threatened the safety of visitors, and in Selsey, West Sussex, a caravan park was flooded. In Exeter, Devon, Athalie Collins, 31, had a narrow escape when a tree crushed her car seconds after she had got out.

Thames and Dover Coastguard stations received many emergency calls as winds gusting up to 60 knots overturned dozens of small boats, pitching their occupants into the sea.

At Aldeburgh, Suffolk, an RAF rescue helicopter picked up a windsurfer being carried out to sea. In Herne Bay the Whitstable lifeboat, which had been called out to assist small angling boats in distress, capsized at the harbour entrance. The crew managed to get ashore unaided.

Weather forecast, page 24

Riddle over Mandelson agent case

Councillor says it was known that trial would be dropped, reports Dominic Kennedy

POLICE investigating the sudden collapse of a fraud case against Peter Mandelson's former election agent have been told that some people seemed to know several days in advance that it was going to be dropped.

The case against Bernard Carr, the MP's 1992 election agent, who was accused of fiddling council expenses, attracted attention because Mr Mandelson was likely to be called as a character witness. The withdrawal of charges by the Crown Prosecution Service minutes before the trial was due to start at Teesside Crown Court in February 1998 astonished the police. Not everybody was so surprised.

At a conference in Scarborough the previous weekend, a Hartlepool Labour councillor was told that Mr Mandelson would not be travelling North for the trial because it was being dropped.

Stan Kaiser, a Conservative councillor in the town, who says that he was told this by the Labour councillor, has written to Cleveland police asking for an investigation. The Assistant Chief Constable, Richard Brunstrom, said yesterday: "Police inquiries arising from the collapse of the trial in February 1998 have not been completed. It is a complicated situation which merits careful and measured consideration and we will not rush to a conclusion."

Mr Kaiser has declined to name publicly the Labour source. Six Hartlepool Labour councillors attended the Scarborough conference. He said: "If they were, in fact, told that the case was due to be cancelled, then that of course is a serious breach of the law. That is a jailable offence somewhere along the line."

It was the second time in months that a criminal case against Mr Carr had been dropped. He was arrested in a public lavatory and charged with gross indecency with an 18-year-old man. Mr Carr was bailed to appear before Hartlepool magistrates but in December 1997 the CPS asked the bench to discontinue the case.

On the morning that Mr Carr's fraud trial was due to begin, the prosecutors arrived expecting to proceed with a case which had cost an estimated £100,000 to investigate.

When new issues were raised by the defence, the prosecuting barrister again interviewed two witnesses, Bryan Hanson, then council leader, and John Walton, the chief finance officer. The prosecution decided to offer no evidence and Mr Carr was cleared of obtaining £666 by deception from the council and trying to obtain a further £65.

Ray Waller, Hartlepool council's new Labour leader, wrote to the prosecutors asking why the case was suddenly dropped. The CPS replied that the two witnesses interviewed on the morning of the trial had produced evidence which undermined the case.

Both men have denied changing their evidence. In council circles, it is understood that they were asked whether councillors could claim expenses without the approval of the committee and confirmed that this was possible.

Mr Mandelson was reported to have queried police competence in preparing the case.

Blair will not have Whelan sacked

By JAMES LANDALE

THE future of the Chancellor's press aide, Charlie Whelan, looked more secure last night after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

In a sign that the Prime Minister wants to avoid a fresh confrontation with Gordin Brown and defuse damaging publicity about splits in the Cabinet, Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was in the hands of Mr Brown.

Mr Whelan returned home to Peckham, southeast London, last night, after spending Christmas and the new year in hiding in Scotland, and is expected to return to his desk at the Treasury this morning.

He was accused of leaking details of a £373,000 home loan which Mr Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, secured from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General. Mr Whelan denied the charge. Both ministers subsequently resigned. The Prime Minister has come under pressure from ministers and officials to order Mr Brown to remove Mr Whelan.

Last night as the press aide arrived home he looked relaxed and willingly posed for photographs but was not answering questions from journalists. He said: "I have been on a long holiday. Give me a ring in the morning and I will answer all your questions then." Asked whether he was going to resign he said: "You will know in the morning."

Tony Blair is understood to be keen to avoid a trial of strength with the Chancellor over the issue and will leave any decision to Mr Brown.

A Downing Street spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Whelan's future is a matter for the Chancellor as it always has been." A Treasury spokesman said: "Mr Brown's aides made clear last week that they continued to have full confidence in Charlie Whelan and that continues to be the case."

The move was seen in Westminister as fresh evidence of the growing strength of the partnership between Mr Brown and John Prescott. The Deputy Prime Minister, who last week spoke of his "excellent" relations with the Chancellor, is understood to be opposed to sacking Mr Whelan.

The Chancellor's aide yesterday won the public and unlikely backing of Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House of Commons. Mrs Beckett, who preceded Mr Mandelson as Trade and Industry Secretary, has not been seen as a natural ally of Mr Whelan's ever since her failure to secure a more generous national minimum wage from Mr Brown was widely leaked last summer.

But yesterday she told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I never subscribe to demanding anybody's head on a platter, particularly not when they are good at their job."



Whelan: returned home from holiday last night

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Ramblers climb a gate on Ravenstone Road yesterday in protest at what they say is the closure of a right of way

Ramblers protest over closed path

RAMBLERS staged a protest walk yesterday along a path they say is being threatened by the quango that advises the Government on access to the countryside (Michael Hornsby writes).

The band of 30 walkers climbed over a gate blocking the mile-long stretch of path which they maintain is clearly shown as a public right of way on maps dating from 1770, but which local landowners say has not been used for decades. They are worried by plans by the Countryside Commission to set a cut-off date after which claims to reinstate paths based on historical evidence of their use would no longer be considered.

Kate Ashbrook, a former chairman of the Ramblers' Association, said: "This path, known for centuries as the Ravenstone Road, used to link the villages of Ravenstone in Buckinghamshire, and Horton, in Northamptonshire. We have evidence that it was used by people going between the villages, and nearly 12 years ago we submitted a claim to Buckinghamshire County Council for the path to be recognised and marked on the definitive map. If the Countryside Commission's plan was in operation, the would have no chance of being restored."

Article proposes Scottish germ weapons

By JASON ALLARDYCE
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Scottish National Party last night distanced itself from one of its senior spokesmen after he appeared to suggest developing chemical and germ warfare capability in an independent Scotland.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Crawford, the party's deputy defence spokesman, refused to tell the party whether he wrote a pamphlet claiming the SNP should consider such lethal weapons. The comments in the pamphlet, published last year under a pseudonym, have caused embarassment and anger in nationalist ranks as they prepare their campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May.

Mr Crawford, who is a Scottish parliament candidate for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, was only named deputy defence spokesman by the SNP leader Alex Salmond 12 days ago.

The Deputy Scottish Secretary, Helen Liddell, said Mr Salmond should waste no time in getting rid of Mr Crawford, who was a tank squadron commander during Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf during 1991. The Defence Secretary George Robertson, added: "Leaving this man in post would be to officially endorse an utterly naive and profoundly dangerous policy position."

The pamphlet on options for an independent Scottish Defence Force, was published under the name Jack Hawthorn for the Glasgow University Centre for War Studies, where Mr Crawford recently studied.

The author, who claimed to have been privy to recent internal SNP debate, stated: "Ballistic missiles have a utility which the SNP should at least consider. They can carry a wide variety of warheads, including chemical and biological payloads, which can be seen as cheap alternatives to nuclear ones for deterrent purposes."

In a statement issued by the SNP on Mr Crawford's behalf, he said he had never advocated the possession of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"Academic analysis of defence options is one thing — clear, practical and costed policies as presented now by the SNP are much more important and much more relevan," he said.



Crawford: refused to discuss pamphlet

Prescott tipped to be Dome supremo

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE campaign by John Prescott to re-establish his position in Government took a step forward yesterday after it emerged that he is poised to replace Peter Mandelson as the Millennium Dome supremo.

The Deputy Prime Minister is a leading contender to become "Dome Secretary" and take on the high-profile role of spearheading the millennium celebrations.

The development comes only days after Mr Prescott unveiled a new alliance with Gordon Brown to call for a return to traditional Labour values of market interventionism.

The move, in an interview last week, was seen as an attempt by Mr Prescott to take advantage of Tony Blair's absence on holiday and the vacuum left by Mr Mandelson's resignation to reassert his authority within Government.

Mr Prescott has always been a keen supporter of the Dome and was a key figure in persuading the Prime Minister to back the project in 1997 when some Cabinet ministers wanted it scrapped.

Government sources yesterday said the reports were "pure speculation", but they did not deny the claims. They added that Mr Prescott had enough on his plate as Secretary of State for the Environment.

But one option circulating at Westminster is for Mr Prescott to split the job with Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Cabinet Office Minister.

League tables to show police soft on speeding

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE forces that too often fail to stop and fine speeding motorists will be exposed in proposed new league tables. Ministers planning to cut the number of road deaths are alarmed by huge differences in the way that forces tackle motoring offences.

Speeding is the cause of about 1,200 road deaths out of the annual toll of 3,599. Government figures suggest that a third of police forces has seen in a rise in the number of road casualties since 1990.

Ministers want to cut the road-death toll by at least 40 per cent by 2010, and plan to shame the worst areas of the country into taking tougher action. While forces such as Lancashire and Essex have taken a tough line on speeding, some metropolitan forces are accused of turning a blind eye.

Police and local authorities will be forced to present detailed proposals to reduce the casualty rate and show the effectiveness of their work by detailing prosecution rates and accident levels. Details of casualty reductions, successful prosecutions and the amount spent on traffic policing will be publicly available, allowing tables of the best and worst performers to be drawn up.

Ministers are reluctant to draw direct comparisons between forces on accident rates or prosecutions, because of wide variations in population and types of roads. However, advisers have told ministers that year-to-year accident and prosecution trends within a police force can indicate the success of policing policy. Those could be compared nationally.

Tighter rules on traffic policing come in the wake of a critical report by Colin Smith, the Inspector of Constabulary, in which some police forces were accused of failing to do enough. The report said that inconsistencies between forces "could discredit the criminal justice system".

Mr Smith complained that in one force, traffic courts were closing down due to a lack of prosecutions, although officers had stopped sufficient offenders. Another force that installed speed cameras had overburdened the local court, and police using radar equipment were "unable to prosecute more blatant offenders".

In large areas of England, casualty rates are rising, yet in Scotland and Wales, which have had bigger increases in car ownership than most English regions, accident rates have fallen. Casualties in Scotland were down by 17 per cent.

Cheshire has suffered the biggest increase, 24.3 per cent, between 1990 and 1997. Norfolk and the Grampian region led the way in improving records, cutting the number of injuries by 26 per cent.

Union chief may face picket line

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN EDMONDS, leader of the GMB union, faces the prospect of a strike among his own staff after firing an official who was trying to instigate an inquiry into the union's pension fund.

A simmering row at the GMB's offices is likely to present Mr Edmonds with the prospect of having to cross a picket line if he wants to reach his office.

The dispute arose after Mr Edmonds sacked the union's head of communications, Tom Condon, earlier this month. Mr Condon, a former political and industrial journalist, was pressing for an internal investigation into why £2.5 million was taken from the GMB's pension fund in the early 1990s.

Although the money has since been returned, officials believe it may have left about 1,400 pensioners receiving less in retirement than they could have done had the fund been left untouched.

The money was used as part of a bridging loan to the union after a property deal went disastrously wrong. Although Mr Edmonds said the deal, involving a move of headquarters, would be self-financing, it left the union, which has 700,000 members, £6 million out of pocket.

The dispute has left many GMB officials uneasy, and could lead to an external inquiry into the finances of Britain's fourth-biggest union. It is understood that both the Law Society and the Occupational Pension Regulatory Authority are aware of the details and are preparing to launch separate investigations.

Members of the six-strong chapel of the National Union of Journalists at the GMB's offices in Wimbledon are to vote this month on whether to take industrial action over Mr Condon's dismisal.

‘It is a miserable place to die, I am sorry’

PETER NICHOLLS



The ticket that would have taken Peter Rowe home



Cairns mark where tourists and kidnappers fell. On the left is where Margaret Whitehouse and Andrew Thirsk were hit. A Yemeni soldier crouches where an Egyptian terrorist was hit

But I had no choice, says Yemeni colonel as he takes **Daniel McGrory** to scene of tourists’ bloody deaths

A RETURN rail ticket from Gatwick, trodden into the dust of a barren plateau, left a poignant reminder yesterday of the holidaymakers whose trip to Yemen ended in deadly confrontation.

A bloodsoaked handkerchief beneath a small mound of black rocks provided more grim evidence that four of the tourists would *not* be returning to their loved ones.

Yemeni army officers yesterday took *The Times* to the bleak volcanic crater where they fought a gunbattle with the Islamic kidnappers who held the 16 Western holidaymakers.

The colonel who led the much-criticised rescue mission shook his head and said: “This is a miserable place to die and I am sorry for the innocent blood, but I had no other choice.”

Gazing around where the travellers were forced to stand, their hands raised, as human shields, it is obvious there was nowhere for them to hide when the gunfight began.

Colonel Mohammed Salah Ali pointed with his Kalishnikov rifle to the pile of rocks he built beside a desert track where the first hostage, Margaret Whitehouse, was killed trying to help Andrew Thirsk, who was also to die in the chaotic shooting.

The only shelter, 30 metres away, was a low ridge of boulders which the kidnappers cowered behind as they forced these two to stand for half an hour with three other frightened hostages in full view of the approaching soldiers. On this parched stretch of open ground the helpless victims could be seen from more than two kilometres away.

Picking your way between the jagged rocks, what is puzzling is how more hostages were not killed in the crossfire. Even more curious is how up to 13 kidnappers escaped across such exposed land.

Colonel Ali does not answer that, preferring to stick to the official Yemeni account that his men did not attack until the kidnappers began executing their hostages. This is at odds with the survivors’ recollections. They say that Mr Thirsk, the first to be hit, was caught in an exchange of automatic fire.

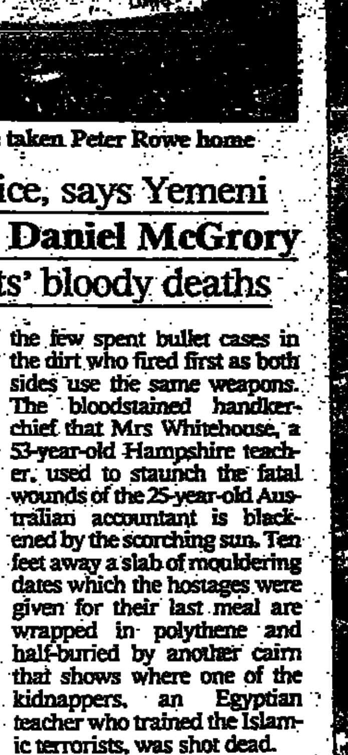
It is impossible to tell from the few spent bullet cases in the dirt who fired first as both sides use the same weapons. The bloodstained handkerchief that Mrs Whitehouse, a 53-year-old Hampshire teacher, used to staunch the fatal wounds of the 25-year-old Australian accountant is blackened by the scorching sun. Ten feet away a slab of mouldering dates which the hostages were given for their last meal are wrapped in polythene and half-buried by another cairn that shows where one of the kidnappers, an Egyptian teacher who trained the Islamic terrorists, was shot dead.

The colonel moves half a mile across the Al-Ghanfar plateau to where his armed escort tramps over the rail ticket that Peter Rowe would have used to get home to Durham today. A patch of dried blood from where the 60-year-old university lecturer received multiple gunshot wounds is matted with sand.

His widow, Claire Marston, 43, who was wounded, was yesterday well enough to fly home with the American hostage, Margaret Thomson. Flanked by soldiers as she left, Ms Marston, whose right arm was encased in plaster and who had her left hand bandaged, was still too distressed to talk about her escape from the plateau near the town of Mudiyah.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Ms Marston would be transferred to hospital on arriving in London. It was not known whether Ms Thompson would remain in Briton.

The only other evidence that the four Scotland Yard detectives in Yemen will find in the clearing which the kidnappers used as makeshift camp are a handful of spent bullets discarded beside a box of Chanel aftershave, a broken whisky bottle and a half-eaten loaf of bread in a yellow carrier bag.



Claire Marston leaving hospital in Yemen yesterday for the flight home to Britain. She was flanked by armed guards

A black trail of dried blood shows where the youngest of the tourists, Ruth Williamson, was executed by an Al-Jihad gunmen as she tried to balance on a 2ft-high sand bar from where she too must have been clearly visible to her rescuers.

Colonel Ali refuses to say why he did not order his men to stop firing when he saw the 16 terrified tourists trapped on open ground. Instead, he walks back towards the two 18in high black stone cairns where the kidnap leader, Abu Hassan, was arrested. “Hassan told me he was only sorry that he did not have a chance to kill all the hostages,” the colonel said.

To reach Al Ghanfar plateau yesterday, Colonel Ali, who is deputy chief of police for Abyan province, provided an armed escort of 25 men, including eight in a truck that had a Russian anti-aircraft gun bolted on the back. On the desert highway his high-speed convoy, escorted by police cars with sirens wailing, passed groups of tourists who were still driving the starkly picturesque route without any security escort.

The tourist convoys did not notice the dirt track leading six miles to the crater where the four hostages died 24 hours after being kidnapped.

Yard seeks to question terrorist

Mystery over the kidnap leader whose gang had no hiding place

SCOTLAND YARD and the ten-strong FBI team in Yemen are seeking to interview the kidnap leader, Abu Hassan, about his links with other terrorist groups in the region.

The bearded Hassan, who the authorities say is 28 but who looks much older, is now manacled in prison in Zinjubar, 115 miles from the scene of the shooting. The authorities would prefer Hassan convicted and executed by the end of this week, although western investigators have told the Yemeni government that they need to discover if his Al-Jihad group are funded and trained by the Saudi billionaire, Osama bin Laden.

Hassan is known to have fought with the Mujahidin against the Russians in Afghanistan, where bin Laden has his base, and where the Saudi master-terrorist planned the bomb attacks on two US embassies in East Africa last year. Local trackers who know this Al-Ghanfa plain point to how Hassan clearly had little idea how to hide or protect his hostages while he was bartering for the release of Al-Jihad comrades arrested in Yemen before Christmas.

From the start of this kidnap, Hassan and at least 18 other gunmen were clearly seen by tribesman and local traders as they drove their hostages in a convoy of stolen vehicles to a partially shaded desert clearing used by camel and goat herders. Locals traders who sold them bottled water and freshly baked bread on the day of the kidnap say that they know most of the gang, including Saad Muhammad Ali Atif and Ahmed Muhammad Ali Atif, two brothers arrested with Hassan, as well as the identities of the three kidnappers who were killed.

Hathemi Aishal, a tribal leader who was used as go-between with the Al-Jihad group, points to the empty biscuit packets and soft drinks he brought for the hostages two hours before the shoot-out. The elderly negotiator said: “Hassan only wanted six of his people freed from prison. He made no threats to the hostages but they would not let me see them. They told me that if I came back, I would be killed.”

He knew one of the terrorists who was shot. Ali Al Khadar el Haj, 25, worked as a taxi driver in the nearest village, Kokab, 1½ miles away. “Hassan was not some big terrorist. Where did he expect to hide?” he asked, pointing to how the army had surrounded the entire area within hours of the kidnap.

Ernie Wise ‘stable’ after heart attacks

By Michael Harvey



Ernie Wise: already frail due to a series of strokes

THE comedian Ernie Wise was recovering in an American hospital last night after suffering two heart attacks in a week.

The 73-year-old star, one half of the legendary duo Morecambe and Wise, spent three weeks in intensive care. But he is now well enough to be moved to a private room.

He fell ill at his winter holiday home in Florida just days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

His wife Doreen, 68, said: “I didn’t think he was going to make Christmas but, bless him, he did. He’s extremely weak, in what you’d describe as a fragile condition, but he’s holding his own — the doctors say he’s stable.”

The entertainer’s health has been a concern for some time. He has suffered a series of strokes over the last five years which have left him in extremely frail health.

The funnyman with the famously short, fat, hairy legs was on the receiving end of the comic genius of Eric Morecambe, who died of a heart attack in 1984, for four decades.

Their Christmas specials became television classics and their 1977 show attracted 27.5 million viewers, the biggest audience for a programme shown on a single channel. In a recent BBC poll, Morecambe and Wise were voted the funniest British comedians of all time and at the height of their fame they were both awarded the OBE.

Mrs Wise said Ernie had complained of breathlessness and feeling unwell when they returned to their Florida apartment from their annual Caribbean cruise.

Minor heart failure was followed by a second more serious heart attack and he was admitted to intensive care on December 11. Mrs Wise, who has been at her husband’s bedside every day, said: “The doctors seem quite happy, it’s up to him now. He’s able to chat but is feeling a little bit low at the moment, but we’re trying to raise his spirits.”

£2m book deal puts Hornby top of league

By Michael Harvey

NICK HORNBY, author of the football fan’s memoir *Fever Pitch*, is switching publishers in a transfer worth nearly £2 million. The two-novel deal for Penguin puts the 41-year-old former teacher at the top of the superleague of British literary authors.

Penguin won against competition from Fourth Estate, Random House and Macmillan Picador. The first new novel, yet to be written, is to be published next year.

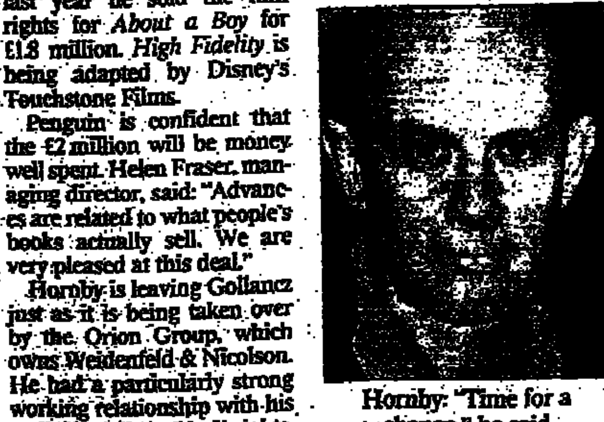
Hornby has become a phenomenon, with three international bestsellers from his first three books, *Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy*. *Fever Pitch* was turned into a film starring Colin Firth and last year he sold the film rights for *About a Boy* for £1.8 million. *High Fidelity* is being adapted by Disney’s Touchstone Films.

Penguin is confident that the £2 million will be money well spent. Helen Fraser, managing director, said: “Advances are related to what people’s books actually sell. We are very pleased at this deal.”

Hornby is leaving Gollancz just as it is being taken over by the Orion Group, which owns Weidenfeld & Nicolson. He had a particularly strong working relationship with his Gollancz editor, Liz Knights, who died in 1997. He said: “I stayed because of her and wanted *About a Boy* to be published by Gollancz even though she was no longer there. But now it is also being taken over it was time for a change.”

The deal is thought to be the largest of its kind for a literary author. In contrast, Jeffrey Archer is said to have secured a £14 million advance for three books.

Penguin has also secured another bestselling writer, Sue Townsend, who joins after 17 years with Methuen. Her new book in the Adrian Mole series, *The Cappuccino Years*, sees her hero now aged 30 and three quarters.



Hornby: “Time for a change,” he said

RUC net closes in on Omagh killers

The bombers' names are known. Now police seek the final pieces of evidence, reports Martin Fletcher

POLICE have identified half a dozen of those responsible for the Omagh bomb, the head of the RUC investigation has told *The Times*.

At least one comes from the vicinity of the town, Detective Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson said. The rest come from the border counties of Armagh, Monaghan and Louth, where the Real IRA, the breakaway terrorist group, is based.

"We have a fair idea who did it. We probably know about half a dozen who were involved," Mr Anderson said. "We are trying to work out their actual roles.

"The problem is producing a case that convicts them. It's one thing to know who did it, and another to produce evidence to put them away."

Mr Anderson, a large and genial family man of 52, knows that problem better than anyone. During 32 years in the RUC he has investigated some 300 murders, terrorist and otherwise. His first big case was the 1978 Warrenpoint massacre, when the IRA killed 18 soldiers with two bombs detonated from across Carlingford Lough in the Irish Republic. He spent 18 months investigating and readily identifies the two bombmakers.

One was Brendan Burns, who later blew himself up while building a bomb in Crossmaglen. The other's name cannot be published because he is still free.

"I know ten people who were directly involved in it," Mr Anderson said. He was unable to bring any to court, not least because the Irish police were much less co-operative in those days.

By contrast, it took him barely a week to arrest four loyalist gunmen who burst into the Rising Sun bar in the village of Greysteel on Hallowe'en in 1993, killing seven customers.



Optimistic: Det Chief Supt Eric Anderson

Mr Anderson's team was able to recover everything involved, from the weapons to the B&Q till roll recording the gunmen's purchase of gloves and balaclavas, enabling a watertight prosecution.

The case of which he is proudest concerned the 1979 Dunmurry train bomb, when three men died after it exploded prematurely. By conducting 15 explosions inside a railway carriage, forensic scientists proved that a passenger claiming £500,000 compensation was one of the bombers.

But terrorists seldom break, conclusive scientific evidence is rare and nearly 2,000 of the 3,200 killings of the Troubles remain unresolved.

Terrorists are trained in anti-interrogation techniques, said Mr Anderson. They are "forensically-aware", washing their clothes, taking showers and burning cars to destroy evidence. Witnesses are intimidated. Few people in the paramilitaries' immediate communities readily help the police.

In the Omagh investigation, Mr Andersonappears close to a breakthrough. Last month he held a press conference to appeal to republicans in particular for "bits and pieces to fill in the missing gaps". That and ITV's *Most Wanted* programme a week later were "very helpful indeed".

He is optimistic but cautions that "it's a long, protracted process involving many avenues of investigation, and we're not there yet".



Anna Kennedy and her sons Angelo and Patrick outside the school that Hillingdon Council has leased to her charity

Parents set up school for autistic sons

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE parents of two autistic children, one of whom has been turned away from 26 schools, will receive the keys to a disused school tomorrow to establish the first centre of its type for pupils with special educational needs.

Anna and Sean Kennedy have remortgaged their home in Hillingdon, northwest London, and raised a loan of £500,000 to set up a school catering for 63 children. A fellow campaigner, Alex Honeysett, whose 33-year-old son spent ten years in mental institutions after psychologists failed to diagnose autism, is giving up his job to manage the project.

Hillingdon Council agreed to lease the primary school to a charity founded by the Kennedys after being unable to provide full-time education for autistic children in the borough. Eight-year-old Patrick Kennedy and his brother Angelo, five, receive only five hours of home tuition a week.

Mrs Kennedy said: "Children who are only mildly autistic can manage in mainstream schools and severe cases are given residential treatment, but those in the middle are often left with nothing. The last school we approached had 55 applications for five places and we lost out because priority was given to children living nearby. Some are travelling three hours a day to get an education." Patrick was diagnosed as suffering from Asperger's syndrome at the age of four, but the family was not notified. Mrs. Kennedy said: "We endured three years of kicking and screaming every morning because he could not cope with mainstream school."

Both brothers will attend the new school, which will open in September if a suitable head teacher can be recruited in time. There will be 14 places initially, building up to the full compliment of 63 after three years.

The project is being backed by the National Autistic Society, and a local charity has offered classroom furniture and practical help to bring down the estimated £627,000 refurbishment costs.

Mrs Kennedy said: "We have received fantastic support, but we know we have a lot of hard work ahead of us. There is only one school in the country like the one we are planning and that does not cater for young children, so there certainly will be a demand for places."

Local authorities will pay £27,000 a year to send children to the new school. But with residential places often costing more than £100,000, there should still be savings to be made.

The charity, HACS, is operating from the Kennedy's home at 22 Cherry Grove, Hillingdon, UB8 3ET.

Poet denies spy role for RAF in Vietnam war

BY SUSIE STEINER

PAM AYRES yesterday challenged claims that she had lived a secret life as a spy, saying that her postwar role in the RAF had been a minor one.

Reports of Ms Ayres's military exploits appeared in *The Sunday Telegraph*, which recently rebuffed claims that its editor, Dominic Lawson, had worked as a spy.

Ms Ayres, one of Britain's best-loved poets, hit back at claims that she worked at intelligence bases in Britain and the Far East during several military conflicts, including the Vietnam war.

Ms Ayres said that she had enlisted with the RAF in 1965 from a desire to travel. She said in a statement yesterday: "I am astounded by this report. When I spoke to their reporter I was conscious of the requirement of the Official Secrets Act and gave the briefest of interviews. I plotted aeriel photography — a job that requires six weeks' initial training — nothing more than that.

"I was not involved in the Vietnam war. The report attaches importance to my role that it simply did not have and it's absurd to suggest otherwise."

The report follows disclosures last November that the novelist and feminist Fay Weldon had worked for a secret unit linked to MI6 during the 1950s. Ms Ayres spent four years with the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre. She was stationed at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire until 1967, when she transferred to the Singapore.



Ayres: said that she was astounded by reports

An MOD spokesman yesterday said that Ms Ayres's role would have involved analysing photographs taken by RAF reconnaissance aircraft to ascertain enemy capabilities. The spokesman added: "It depends what you would call a spy. It's a term that's applied loosely to a lot of things. Obviously there is a security process that you have to go through in order to be suitable for that sort of work."

هكذا من الأصل

Pupils given anti-meningitis pills

'Kissing bug' claims lives of two children from the same school, Michael Hornsby writes



Pupils wait outside Wath comprehensive school yesterday to be given antibiotic pills after two classmates — Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, below — died of meningitis

EVERY pupil at a school where two teenagers died of meningitis after attending a Christmas party were called in yesterday to receive antibiotics to prevent the disease spreading.

All 1,750 children at Wath Comprehensive near Rotherham in South Yorkshire, William Hague's old school, were given the antibiotics in tablet form.

The precaution was taken after the deaths on New Year's Eve of 14-year-old Claire Wilkinson and 15-year-old boy Adam Rawson, both pupils at the school. The children will receive injections today. A helpline for worried parents has been set up by the local health authority.

The two teenagers who died, Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, were friends and it is thought the pair may have passed the illness to one another after kissing at a Christmas party. the school itself is not thought to have been the source of the outbreak.

The tragedy was made worse because Claire had to be turned away from hospitals in South Yorkshire because there were no beds available in intensive care units.

She was eventually taken to a hospital in Nottingham, 40 miles away, after a seven-hour wait at the Rotherham General Hospital. Claire's mother, Carole Wilkinson, said: "I am absolutely devastated. I cannot believe that in a civilised country there were no beds available for a seriously ill child."

Explaining the decision to move Claire, a hospital spokesman said: "She was taken to Rotherham General, but during her treatment the decision will have been made that the patient needed specialist paediatric intensive care unit facilities. Not everyone suffrering from meningitis would need that sort of treatment.

"What happened then was that Sheffield was approached and that was found to be full. Nottingham was then approached and they did have a bed available."

A spokesman for the National Meningitis Trust warned that at this time of year the disease is at its most prevalent because of increased social interaction. Last year there 2,600 cases of the disease, resulting in 270 deaths.

"We do see a big increase in cases during November and December and so it is important that people are aware of the symptoms and seek medical attention immediately.

"People are more at risk at this time of year because they tend to be in closer contact with others. One in ten of us carries the bacteria which cause the illness, but it is important to remember that meningitis is still a very difficult disease to catch.

"We certainly don't want to suggest people avoid social interaction at Christmas. it is after all how people build up resistance to illnesses.

"Teenagers are particularly at risk because they do tend to have increased social contact, but I would stress that it is a difficult bacterium to pass on and it is rare that more than one pupil at a school would get the disease."

Health official have set up the following helplines for parents: 0345 538118, 0145 4413344 and 01709 302070.





Children's centre takes more inmates

By Michael Hornsby

RESTRICTIONS on the number of inmates in Britain's first secure institution for children, which saw serious violence last summer, are to be relaxed.

From today there will be 30 young offenders at the Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester, Kent — up from the limit of 25 set by the Home Office in November. That still leaves it ten below capacity.

The Social Services Inspectorate is expected to be severely critical of the management in a report to be published shortly. In July, there was rioting at the privately run centre for persistent young offenders aged 13 to 15, three months after it opened. Inmates armed with metal poles and socks filled with snooker balls ransacked parts of the centre. Police in riot gear had to be called.

Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary which runs the centre, said: "We would like to go back up to 40 places, but the Home Office is satisfied that *progress is being made.*"

TV docusoap stars bite back

By Alex O'Connell

A GROUP of docusoap stars are accusing television producers of wrecking their lives after experiencing instant fame.

Keith Cooper, who was director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House when he featured in *The House*, claims to have been damaged by the way he was portrayed in the 1996 BBC2 fly-on-the-wall documentary.

He said: "The camera got me 180 degrees utterly, absolutely, totally wrong. My professional credibility was affected by what people saw on television."

David Smith, the chef from *Hotel*, made famous by his swearing at the Adelphi in Liverpool, said: "They stitched me up. They made a lot of money out of *Fawlty Towers*, so they thought they'd get a real live version. So they picked us."

Neil Howarth, an aspiring pop star who featured in *Made In Manchester*, believes that his television performance stalled his career. He said: "It opened a lot of doors but it slammed shut a hell of a lot of others."

Mr Howarth claims that he told by the BBC directors that he was going to be portrayed in a bad light for the first two episodes but that he would be redeemed in the third. He said: "When it came to the third episode there were legal problems, so they shelved it."

The disclosures come in a BBC documentary about fly-on-the-wall series, *Life After Docu Soap*, which will begin on Sunday at 10.30pm.

In spite of criticisms, the docusoap genre has become a fast-track route to success. Through her appearance in *Lakesiders*, Emma Boundy, 24, has signed a deal with EMI and released an album.

Before her came Jane McDonald, the cabaret singer from *The Cruise*, who performed at the Royal Variety Performance this year and has made a chart-topping album.

Max Clifford, the PR agent, said: "I am sure lots of people, particularly the extroverts, will be doing everything they can to get themselves involved in any documentary."

Trude Mostue, star of *Vets in Practice*, said: "If you get the wrong producer, they can cut and paste as they like."

Jeremy Spake, from *Airport*, the outspoken groundsman with Aeroflot, is happy with his participation. He said: "I did a book, there are always some spin-offs." He is now making a programme about his grandmother, who was an interpreter for Stalin.





David Smith, left, from *Hotel*, and Keith Cooper, of *The House*, feel let down by the television producers involved

Secret of Carey's man in the pew

By Dominic Kennedy

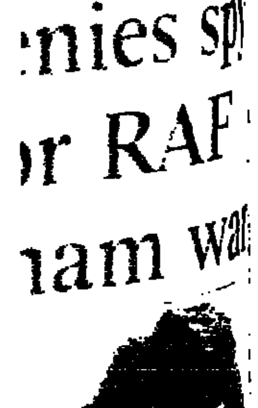
The Archbishop of Canterbury launches a campaign today to make churches more welcoming, based on his son Andrew's experiences in a new parish.

Dr George Carey condemns "unwelcoming, cold, drab and dreary" churches in an introduction to the book *New Era, New Church?* which describes the unhappy experiences of "Andrew and Helen", a mid-30s couple moving into a new area. It omits to mention is that Andrew is Dr Carey's son, a journalist who helped to produce the book.

The newcomers first try their nearest church. "They were greeted at the door by an unsmiling steward," says the book. "No one sat near Andrew and Helen. No one said a word to them. As they left at the end of the service, the vicar — locked in a conversation with a regular member of the congregation — rather limply shook their hands and thanked them for coming." Their verdict: "At least we had the benefit of anonymity!"

The next Sunday the couple try a church hall 100 yards along. This time the welcome is too enthusiastic and stifling. "As they left, they had to walk the gauntlet of smiling faces, encounter a barrage of questions, a plethora of outstretched hands – and even hugs!"

□ *New Era, New Church?* by Steve Chalke with Sue Radford (Harper Collins, £8.99)



THE EURO GOES TO MARKET

Bankers flirt with Bonn masters

Roger Boyes says the austere Bundesbank is now forced to play political games

A SERIES of articles in this newspaper has been depicting the new continental fault-lines: the tension between the city and the country, between north and south. In most cases the euro has not so much created these divisions as highlighted them, thrown them into relief.

One would expect even Germany's consensus-based political system — with its in-built aversion to conflict — to register these problems. So far, however, Germany's ruling caste sees the euro only as a form of necessary modernisation and a way of muffling conflict with suspicious neighbours.

There seems to be no political capital to be made out of questioning the euro. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, regarded the euro a year ago as "a sickly, premature child" and favoured delay rather than a softening of the entry criteria for economic and monetary union (EMU). Now he regards the euro as a magnificent opportunity for Germany.

Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, also disliked the Maastricht treaty and managed to straddle the contradictions — rejecting the EMU entry criteria but supporting the euro. Even public opinion has swung the way of the euro, with a narrow majority in favour of it for the first time.

Helmut Kohl's cynical assumption — that the Germans would not love but would accept the euro once politicians made it seem unavoidable — was broadly correct. The euro played little or no role in the decisive phase of the German elections.

Perhaps the most damaging long-term aspect of the Maastricht process was this contempt for public opinion. It has sapped the trust of Germans in their political class. The rapid end to Herr Schröder's governing honeymoon is a symptom of this.

The euro may have been neutered but it would be wrong to assume that it will be out of the political frame in Germany permanently. The danger phase begins now in the period between the technical introduction of the euro and the summer of 2002 when it replaces the mark in daily transactions. That will be the true turning point for Germans and it will come only three months before the next general election.

The euro will be the Christian Democrats' way of distancing themselves from Herr Kohl. Wolfgang Schäuble, the head of the party, was the co-author four years ago of a strategy paper calling for a "hard-core" Europe. Fast integrators could leave countries like Italy behind. The Italians, and indeed the British, were less than enthusiastic. Now Herr Schäuble — flanked by Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister — can position the party as a defender of strict fiscal discipline within euroland. As the Bundesbank loses power, so it is destined to become more politicised. Rarely in its modern history have so many members of the bank's directorate so openly flirted with the Government.

The Bundesbank was always run by party political nominees but they laid aside their ideological baggage to serve the bank's crusade against inflation. Now the bank is very much part of the political game. On a different level the European Central Bank will also become part of the political fray in Germany. Germans who were assured that the Bank would be driven by inflation-hating robots will soon feel cheated. The bankers are destined to let down the Germans; they cannot deliver jobs, they cannot hide the country's industrial inefficiency, cannot prevent painful transfer payments abroad to weaker members of the European Monetary Union.

The euro thus ushers in the politics of resentment. Herr Schröder — or rather his key thinker Bodo Hombach — senses that this will be an emotional period, full of disappointment for those many Germans with pumped-up expectations. And so he intends to craft a new patriotism, a "we-feeling" as Herr Hombach calls it. A self-aware Germany, proud of its achievements, does not need to look to Europe for miracles.

In the breathing space between the virtual euro and the real in-your-pocket euro, Germany will seek to reposition itself within Europe. It will be a busy time, full of misunderstandings and unsettling for the neighbours.



Donnelly: "Quietly elated by weekend"

Sterling effort pays off

A four-day diary of conversion: Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director for Barclays Capital

Thursday, Dec 31, 1998: Arrived at work 7am. Spent morning checking plans.
11am: Went to trading floor to see locking rates come. Next two hours spent explaining plans to representative of European finance ministry [unnamed] observing impact on London.
3pm: Returned to Canary Wharf control and communications centre to go

DIARY

through final preparations. More than 250 timed milestones, set as monitor of progress, checked round clock by ten staff on shift with hourly reports given to senior executives.
6pm: Computers set to complete end-of-year accounts, ran through the night.
Friday, January 1, 1999: Computers began work at about 7am, crunching numbers to be checked by 250 people. Government and corporate bonds, equities and futures translated into euros. About 17 action plans used for different products. Home to central London flat by 8pm.
Saturday, January 2, 1999: 7am back in office. Traders began familiarising themselves with new numbers. Home 9pm.
Sunday, January 3, 1999: In early. More traders in but all gone by 3pm. Group conference at 7pm. Go home about 9pm, "quietly elated".



Cautious City expects slow start to trade

By Susie Steiner

LONDON

LONDON'S financial markets were expected to get off to a slow start today as traders get to grips with the euro and the new currency begins to make an impact on world trade.

Systems and conversion staff at 600 banks and financial institutions have spent collectively more than 300,000 hours preparing for the big moment. It was the largest operation the City had ever launched.

Barclays Capital yesterday handed out 650 specially-made "stress balls" to each of its traders to help them through the first nerve-racking days of euro-dealing. "They have got small silicone globules inside and you can crunch them in your hand as a stress reliever," said Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director at Barclays Capital. The balls are printed with support hotline numbers.

Trading in the euro could only begin after an intensive three-day preparation period in which billions of pounds worth of assets were converted from the old European currencies into the euro.

An estimated 30,000 City staff forfeited their New Year break to prepare banks for monetary union. Most banks said they were ready for a smooth first day's trading. A spokesman for NatWest said: "Tomorrow will be the acid test, but we believe everything will go swimmingly."

Peter Letley, managing director of business operations for HSBC investment bank, said yesterday: "Most people have now finished working and those that are still in are on schedule. We are not anticipating any problems when we begin trading tomorrow."

Once trading has settled to a comfortable hum, staff in the Square Mile, who missed out on New Year's Eve, will do their best to make up for it. "We are planning to have a party themed around the 11 countries of monetary union, with national food and drink from each," said a spokesman for Barclays Capital.

"I don't know that we'd want Finnish wine, but you could have flavoured vodkas from Finland, tapas from Spain, Belgian beer, that sort of thing. We were going to make staff dress in lederhosen, but we thought that would be unfair". Barclays Capital said work done over the new year would be taken into account in bonus appraisals, while other banks were expected to make lump sum payments. Merrill Lynch said its staff "would not go unrewarded", while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson confirmed it would be making "special payments to its staff".

"We will be having some sort of celebratory party," said a spokesman for Dresdner. "We don't know what the details are yet because we thought it was tempting fate."

One insider warned that this year's bonuses would push up sums demanded for working over the millennium. "I think we will have to double whatever we pay them this year when it comes to next year," he said.

Trading begins, page 48



A "stress ball" printed with a monetary union helpline lies on a keyboard at Barclays Capital on the eve of the start of worldwide euro trading

Frankfurt's euro party loses fizz

Fight by city to outflank London gets little support from Germany's leaders, **Roger Boyes** reports

RARELY has there been a more extravagantly prepared champagne breakfast: 2,000 bankers in Frankfurt worked through the night to ensure a smooth launch for the euro which is to be celebrated today with a flying visit by Yves Thibault de Silguy, the European Commissioner for finance, who will clink glasses with Wim Duisenberg, the European Central Bank chief.

This is Frankfurt's most serious attempt to displace London as the financial centre of Europe. The introduction of the euro will, Germans believe, give Frankfurt a significance far greater than is justified by the present small trading volumes. Petra Roth, the Mayor of Frankfurt, has been travelling around the world pushing the merits of her city with the slogan: "We may not be large, but we are great."

Certainly Frankfurt has an unusual accumulation of banking talent: all the top German commercial banks have their headquarters in the city, as does the Bundesbank and, now, the European Central Bank. But to be "great" — or even just a credible rival to the City of London — it will need successfully to steer the euro launch from the first trading day until the euro replaces the mark and other currencies as a daily means of transaction. "We expect some glitches but nothing too serious," said a heavily pressed banker who had been working flat out since New Year's Eve.

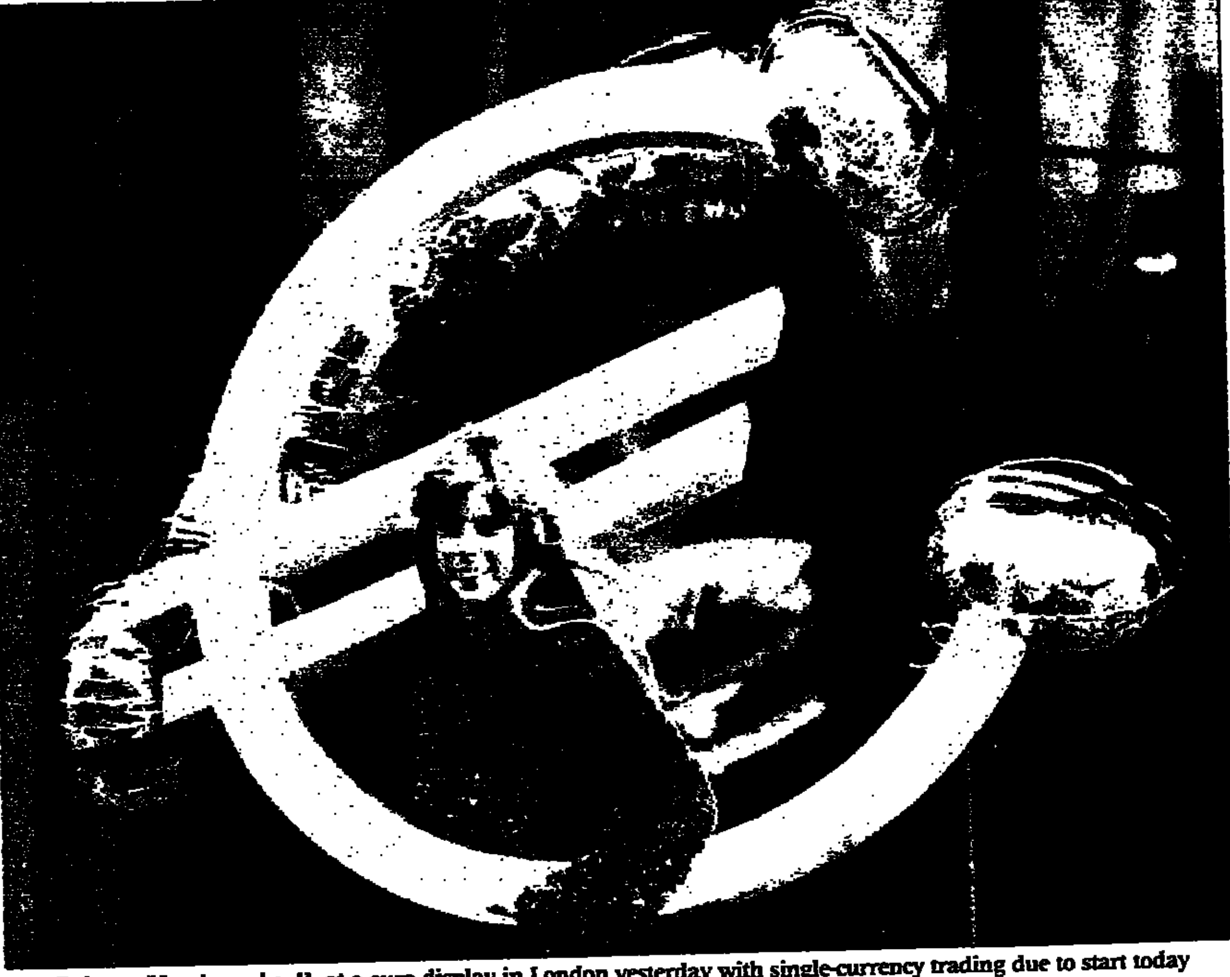
There was doubt yesterday as to whether Frankfurt and indeed the euro has gained the full-powered political backing that might have been expected. Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, chose to holiday in the Caribbean with his family rather than attend the New Year's Day launch by the European finance ministers.

"I cannot imagine a worse beginning for the German European presidency," Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democratic Opposition's leader, said. Frau Roth was also on holiday.

True, 10,000 Germans overcame their hangovers on New Year's Day to gather in the park outside the European Central Bank and form a human symbol of the euro. Shops on Saturday were keen to give away chocolate euros — sending the wrong political signal by promptly melting in the hand — but it was difficult to avoid the impression that the German political class is playing down the dawn of the euro era.

The real damper on the euro launch came in a leak to the Sunday German press: that Herr Lafontaine is planning a 1 per cent or 2 per cent increase in VAT, despite government promises not to raise taxes in this legislative period. Herr Lafontaine's spokesman denied the plans, but it is clear that Germany hopes to benefit from broader European tax harmonisation to increase VAT. Germany is now among the lowest in Europe, with VAT at 16 per cent and if it were, for example, to reach the British level of 17.5 per cent almost £10 billion of extra revenue would flow into the federal budget.

PAUL ROGERS



Rebecca Handscombe, 11, at a euro display in London yesterday with single-currency trading due to start today

French language purists flinch at English accent

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

EUROLAND may be only newborn, but French-language purists are complaining already that the word used to describe the new single European currency region sounds too English and should be replaced with one more pleasing to French ears.

Even though "euroland" is already common linguistic currency throughout Europe, some French academics have suggested that it should be replaced by eurolande, or even la terre euro.

Alain Rey, a prominent language expert, told Le Figaro that the Académie Française, the arbiter of the language, would "probably propose that this hybrid term be Frenchified by adding a final 'e'."

The only problem with that solution is that lande does not mean land in French. The dictionary definition is "vegetation in a temperate zone, principally composed of heather, broom and gorse, generally resulting in the degradation of the forest". In other words, a scrub-filled wasteland of little use to man or beast. "One can already hear the Eurosceptics pointing out that the name eurolande is only too appropriate," Le Figaro said.

WORD PLAY

The term euroland may sit easily with speakers of English, German, Dutch, Swedish and Danish, but defenders of French say that the Romance languages have not been taken into account in the designation of the new economic area.

"Once again, it will be English which drowns out everything else, without French, Spanish or Italian having a word to say on the matter," M Rey said.

The eccentric French novelist, Jean Raspail, who recently invaded a British-owned rock in the Channel in the name of a non-existent South American king, goes still further, saying that the failure to develop an alternative to the term euroland is another sign of French defeatism in the face of Anglo-Saxon cultural colonisation.

"French people will not lift a little finger to defend their language," M Raspail said. "They are making fools of themselves, they no longer have an ear for their own language. Just adding an "e" to euroland to make it sound vaguely French was a poor consolation, he added.

The Academy's most outspoken defender of the language, Jean Dutourd, said: "With or without an 'e', it is still a vile word."

Scots eager to test their new-found power

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

SCOTLAND 1999 YEAR OF DESTINY

Times writers test the mood of a country that is preparing for its first parliament in 300 years

IN FOUR months' time Scots will go to the polls to change the way the country has been run for 292 years. They still cannot quite believe it is happening. Nor do they know what will come of it all. But, whatever doubts there may be elsewhere — particularly in England — about the wisdom of this great constitutional adventure, the Scots themselves show no sign of wavering. If anything, enthusiasm for change has hardened.

Every poll reveals that they have, over the past few months of intensive political activity, developed a strong sense of their own Scottishness, a conviction that the parliament they are about to elect will deliver a new beginning, and a belief that it will be better than the one that has run their affairs from further south. For some, those heightened expectations are a dangerous commodity. The remit of a Scottish parliament may be wide, its delegated powers and its ability to legislate far-reaching, but it will move within the same budgetary constraints as it ever did. There will be no extra funding, no loosening of the Treasury purse strings. The tax-raising powers it has been given are limited and will not be used at least within the first term of the parliament.

How then will the expectations be met? One theory runs that the disappointment factor will play straight into the hands of the Scottish Nationalists. Alex Salmond, their leader, has pledged his party to back the new parliament, to ensure that it is a success and that it delivers sensible policies. But right now he can afford to do so, secure in the knowledge that, by his calculation, he cannot lose: if the parliament begins to fall victim to recrimination and schism, then he will be in a position to say: how much better things could be done in an independent Scotland. If, on the other hand, it is a modest success, he can argue: how much better it would be in an independent Scotland.

This is Labour's nightmare: a narrow election victory under the additional-member voting system dictates an alliance, probably with the Liberal Democrats. An apparently supportive SNP nevertheless conducts a steadily undermining opposition strategy which, in four years' time, presents a strong alternative to the electorate. With events drifting away from the Government in Westminster, and factionalism at home, the nation would be heading straight into the uncharted and choppy waters of separatism.

That, however, is just a little too simplistic. It presumes a passive electorate, a self-assured nationalist party, and a Labour Party frozen like a rabbit confronted by the SNP stoat. There are still four months to go in what will be a fascinating and unpredictable election campaign. The Nationalists are still perceived very much as a one-man band; they will have to convince voters that they have strength in depth if they are to win genuine support. Their economic policies, still sketchy, will be tested to destruction by the opposition parties. And meanwhile Labour is climbing back in the polls. Analysis of the most recent surveys suggest that when it comes to the second choice on the ballot paper — voters will be required to opt for parties as well as for individual candidates — Labour is doing far better than the SNP.

This suggests that the Scottish electorate is not yet prepared to abandon its traditional reliance on Labour as its preferred choice to govern the country. It has been on trial over the past few months but it has not yet been pronounced guilty. On this analysis it will come home as the majority party. What happens then will be critical. Four years is not a long time in which to ensure the smooth running of a new parliament, deliver enough to convince Scots that it has been worth voting for but not so much that it arouses the hostility of Westminster. A steady hand on the tiller will be a prime requirement. In Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, Labour seems to have just that. There have been signs recently that Mr Dewar, far from weakening under the Nationalist assault, has discovered a new confidence.

He thinks that he is going to do well, he thinks that the parliament can work and he believes that he can handle the worst the SNP can throw at him. Between the punchy demagogue Salmond and the cautious ascetic Dewar, the fate of Scotland and the constitutional future of the UK will be determined.

Tim Hames, page 20

Cue for a fresh cast of political hopefuls

THE NEW FACES

By JASON ALLARDYCE, Scottish Political Reporter

DONNIE'S the dark, rugged pop star who's put his rock'n' roll lifestyle behind him. Tasmina's the ambitious young actress already known to millions but seeking a new role. Duncan is a Harvard man tipped to one day lead his country, while Tavish sometimes pretends to be a Viking.

They could be the cast of a daytime soap opera and will certainly be making lots of television appearances in the near future. They are unlikely to generate as much viewer interest as Vera Duckworth or Grant Mitchell, however — unless the young stars of Scotland's new parliament become embroiled in sex scandals, skulduggery or corruption. (Then again, this is politics.)

The creation of the Holyrood administration brings with it 129 vacancies in Scottish party politics and an opportunity for a generation of young hopefuls. Among them is **Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh**, 27, above, a second-generation Asian Scots actress who wants to abandon Bollywood for Holyrood.

She became active in the Scottish Tories after last year's general election rout left the party without a single MP in Scotland. Her latest drama role, shot in Scotland, will be seen by up to three billion Asian viewers around the world. She is also a qualified lawyer and a mother, and speaks five languages.

An admirer of Baroness Thatcher, she has politics in her blood. Her father, Mo Rizvi, was the first Asian to become a regional councillor in Scotland, winning a seat in the Lothians in 1986.

"I was spat at while I campaigned for my father because we were Tories. But that is par for the course," she said. "Conservatism and Islam have very similar values of enterprise, where you get up and do what you can for yourself and respect your elders and family."

Ms Ahmed-Sheikh stands little chance of preventing the Scottish National Party taking the Glasgow Govan seat for which she is standing but she should go through thanks to proportional representation.

Donnie Munro, below, is known to hundreds of thousands of fans as the former frontman of Runrig, the Gaelic rock band. Now the man who has four gold albums to his name is singing to Labour's tune and is confident he will not have to settle for silver in his battle to win the Highland constituency of Ross, Cromarty and Skye.

A polished performer, the 44-year-old with friends in high places could become the first Scottish parliament minister for the Highlands, for the Gaelic language or both. He returned to his native Skye last year to become development director at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, a college of further education that teaches in Gaelic. Mr Munro is a passionate advocate not only for the Gaelic language but also for land reform to benefit crofting tenants. But while Mr Munro remains a youth icon for many, his age betrays the fact that Labour has struggled to bring as much young blood into the new parliament as rivals, in particular the SNP.

Perhaps the biggest name to watch is **Duncan Hamilton**, above, the 20-something tipped in some quarters to be the next SNP leader, and likened to the present incumbent, Alex Salmond, and to Tony Blair. Mr Hamilton, who works for Mike Russell, SNP chief executive, has a first-class honours degree and won a scholarship to Harvard. He has been known to work until 4am at the SNP headquarters.

The sharply dressed 24-year-old son of the Manse, whose body language comes from the pulpit, is a member of what has become known as the nat pack. This is the band of young turks who have assumed positions of power around the SNP leader.

Tavish Scott, above, is also tipped to lead his party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The 33-year-old Shetlander, who is preparing to take part in the annual Viking fire festival this month, is close geographically and philosophically to his party leader, Jim Wallace, who represents Shetland and Orkney at Westminster.

Mr Scott, a farmer, married with two young children, was Mr Wallace's assistant while he was chief whip in 1989. He headed the 1992 election communications team before returning to Bressay to become a councillor and party transport spokesman. Mr Scott, who is contesting Shetland Holyrood, will fight for the home rule settlement to be altered to include devolution on issues such as abortion and euthanasia.

IAN MUNRO



New year, new hope: fireworks over Edinburgh Castle as Scots await the first foot in parliament

THE ROAD TO DEVOLUTION

1928 National Party of Scotland formed to campaign for Scottish parliament. Later merges with Scottish Party to form Scottish National Party

1945 Robert McIntyre becomes first SNP MP after Motherwell by-election but loses seat weeks later at general election

1947 Non-political Scottish Convention calls national assembly with 600 delegates. Labour and Conservatives support limited devolution in principle

1967 Winnie Ewing wins Hamilton for SNP

1972 Discovery of North Sea oil. Nationalists argue that Scotland could comfortably afford independence

1974 Scotland elects 11 SNP MPs as party's Scots vote peaks at 30 per cent

1978 MPs narrowly back Labour Bill for Scottish and Welsh devolution, subject to 40 per cent voting yes in a referendum

1979 Scots vote yes but in insufficient numbers for 40 per cent requirement. Thatcherism defies what John Smith later calls "settled will" of Scottish people

1987 Margaret Thatcher comfortably wins general election in England but loses 11 of 21 Scottish MPs as Scots voters reject right-wing programme and poll tax, initiated in Scotland

1989 Convention of Scottish Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and community groups, boycotted by SNP, begins work on blueprint for devolution

1992 John Major wins general election. Home rule marches attract up to 5,000 people protesting that Government has no mandate to govern Scotland

1995 Roseanna Cunningham captures "safe" Tory seat of Perth and Kinross for SNP. Convention launches proposals for parliament with tax-raising powers

1996 Labour feels electorally vulnerable on tax and says another referendum must be held before a Labour government delivers Scottish parliament

1997 Tories without single Scottish MP after general election. Devolution yes campaign unites Labour, Lib Dems and SNP. Overwhelming vote for Edinburgh parliament with tax powers

1998 Scotland Act makes it to statute books, with elections to be held on May 6. SNP poll surge puts it only marginally behind Labour. Majority in some polls back independence

Shock waves from a cultural revolution

ARTS SCENE

By GILLIAN HARRIS, Scotland Correspondent

THE ARTS renaissance that is flourishing in Scotland began long before the devolution referendum. During two general elections, as politicians squabbled about the benefits of home rule, writers, musicians and actors focused their energies on creating a new cultural identity.

Outsiders may equate the Scottish arts scene with the Edinburgh Festival. In truth, the theatres, art galleries and concert halls across Scotland have never been busier providing a showcase for a plethora of home-grown talent.

"I feel in some way that devolution and the political advances came about because of the arts revival," Barclay Price, the deputy director of the Scottish Arts Council, said. "The country was feeling self-confident when it voted for devolution and the healthy arts scene played a part in creating that feeling."

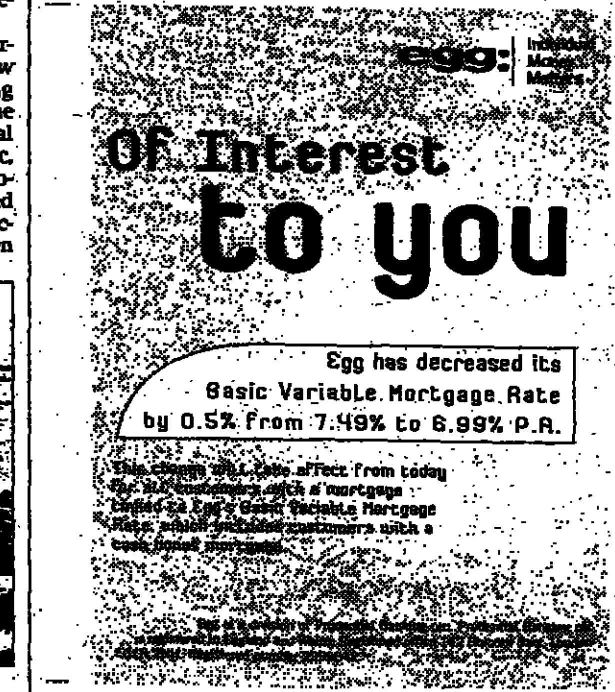
For several years the arts revival was conducted as if it was a Scottish secret. Writers including Irvine Welsh, James Kelman and A.L. Kennedy were eulogised and sold well at home but their books gathered dust on bookstore shelves elsewhere. It was not until Kelman won the 1994 Booker Prize with *How Late It Was, How Late* that readers outside Scotland took more notice of the new generation of Scottish authors. Now Scottish writing is considered trendy. London-based publishing houses are signing up names such as Alice Thompson, Alan Warner and Duncan McLean, all literary prizewinners.

Film-makers waving the cultural banner for Scotland are also benefiting from being seen as hip. Before the 1995 success of *Trainspotting*, made by the same team behind the low-budget *Shallow Grave*, a handful of directors were making films in Scotland. Now Scottish Screen, which funds new projects, is inundated with requests from directors all hoping to be the new Danny Boyle.

That is good news for Scottish actors. Robert Carlyle, who starred in *Trainspotting* and *The Fully Monty*, divides his time between projects abroad and work in Scotland, including the BBC drama series *Looking For Jo Jo*, which was based in Edinburgh. Peter Mullan won the Cannes Festival best-actor prize in May for *My Name Is Joe*, about a recovering Glaswegian alcoholic.

In music, the surge of cultural energy has spawned a new generation of bands, among them Bis, Idlewild, Texas, the Supernaturals and Primal Scream. In classical music, James McMillan, a contemporary composer, has emerged as a major voice. Retrospectives of his work have been performed at the Edinburgh Festival and in London while another Scot, Evelyn Glennie, has taken his percussion concerto *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* on a world tour.

The defining characteristic of the new wave of artists is that they have a fresh outlook with no desire to cling to the kitsch world of tartan and heather. Ewan McGregor, *de facto* leader of the new arts pack, wears a kilt but would never be persuaded to appear on a Hogmanay show alongside White Heather Club singers. Sheila Murray, a Glasgow-based member of the British Council and Scotland's international arts officer, said: "Scotland has always been vibrant and looking to the international market. Devolution has not caused the upsurge but it will probably fuel confidence especially if the parliament has the foresight to use the arts as Scotland's calling card abroad. The arts community is very vocal. It will not give politicians an easy ride if they are not an integral part of the new order."



Idlewild: part of a new generation of pop bands

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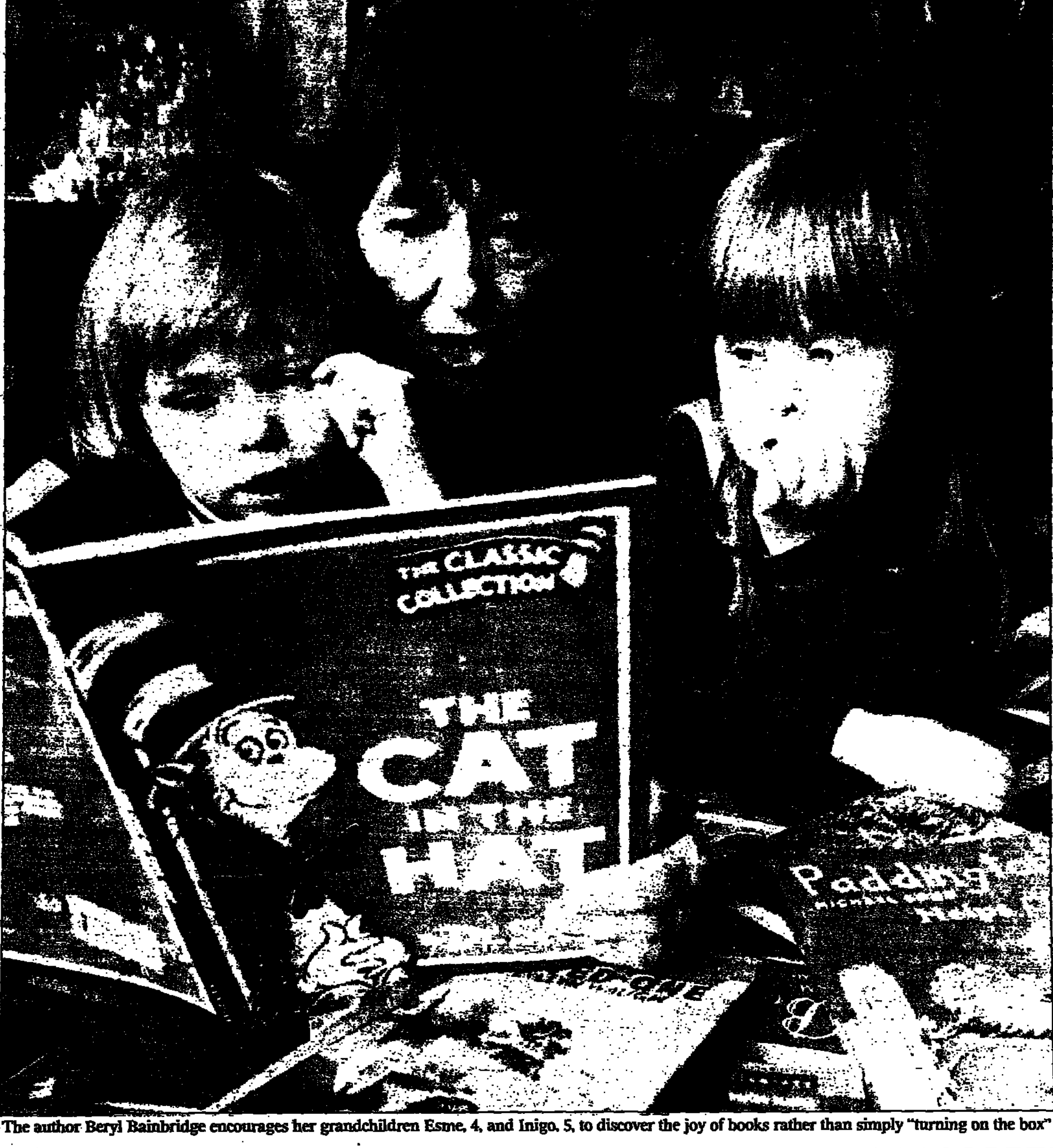
Free books: read all about it

The Times launches Britain's biggest book bonanza, aimed at making a wide range of literature available to young readers



The Free Books for Schools scheme, which begins in earnest today, is set to become the largest ever giveaway of reading materials for British classrooms. Nearly 26,000 schools, with five million pupils, have registered to collect tokens, the first of which appears on page 24 of *The Times* today, to save towards the range of titles on offer. The 150 books available are drawn from all areas of the school curriculum, from infant readers through to A-level students. Early primary titles include several Judith Kerr books, such as *Mog in the Dark* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, as well as the ever popular *Fox in Socks* by Dr Seuss. Teenage books include *My Left Foot* by Christy Brown, *Dubliners* by James Joyce and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. The list of books was compiled by the educational publishers Cliff Moon and Michael Jones.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has endorsed the scheme, which coincides with the Government's own National Year of Reading. He said: "We are committed to raising standards of literacy and we are asking the nation to join this campaign." Well over one billion tokens will appear in all, on packets of Walker's Crisps, Walker's Lites, Quavers, Monster Munch, French Fries, Doritos and Walker's Cheetos, as well as in other News International newspapers until the end of March. Schools can register for the scheme until February 28 by calling the Free Books for Schools helpline on 0845 6040312.



GILL ALLEN

The author Beryl Bainbridge encourages her grandchildren Esme, 4, and Inigo, 5, to discover the joy of books rather than simply "turning on the box"

Opening windows to the outer world

BY GEORGE PENDLE

SOME of Britain's leading authors are backing the country's largest books giveaway to promote children's reading.

The Booker Prize winners Ben Okri and A S Byatt are among the literary figures enthused by the Free Books for Schools scheme in *The Times*.

Beryl Bainbridge, whose many novels include *An Awfully Big Adventure* and this year's much-praised *Master Georgie*, said she hoped the scheme would help children to "turn off the box and open a book".

The author, who regularly reads to her grandchildren Inigo, 5, Esme, 4, and Florence, 1, added: "Reading at schools is terribly important. Books are desperately needed everywhere and this scheme can only help."

Fay Weldon, the novelist and screenwriter, described Free Books for Schools as "quite brilliant". She added: "It's really good that children should read and that lack of funds should not prevent them from doing so. Reading is quite extraordinarily important — it's all I did as a child.

"TV tends to stultify the imagination because it has none of the paradoxes or complexity that books contain that allow the imagination to grow. That is why reading is so necessary for children."

Okri, whose novel *The Famished Road* won the Booker Prize, said the books giveaway was "positively important". He added: "Reading has to be put back to the top of the agenda.

"It should not just be schoolwork which people are forced to read, it should once again be seen as life-enhancing, glamorous, sexy.

"Films, videos, CD-Roms just don't compete — they can't compete with the infinite variety of reading. It cannot be over-stressed."

Peter Ackroyd, the acclaimed biographer and novelist, was another to support the scheme. "For me reading was a lifeline as a child. From my earliest years I became entranced with books as they opened up other realities and possibilities to me."

Wendy Cope, the poet, was a primary school teacher. She backed the scheme, saying: "I know the importance of reading both at school and at home. Poetry has always helped children to learn to read and children's poetry in particular has flowered in the last 30 years."

Lord Bragg, the television presenter and author, said: "I support the project wholeheartedly. Reading leads you into hundreds of worlds — worlds of facts, of religion, of adventure — print takes you anywhere."

Andrew Motion, the poet and biographer, believes *The Times* is doing "a wonderful thing". He added: "It is extremely important and I hope that it all takes root.

"Good books are not only entire self-sufficient rooms, but also windows into the outer world."

Byatt, another Booker prizewinner and author of numerous children's stories, described Free Books for Schools as "an incredibly important thing".

She added: "Modern education seems to put the emphasis on teamwork and group studies but I think that a lot of children also need solitude and private experience.

"I've been to schools which have almost no books, or where children work from photocopied chapters of books and never get a chance to read the whole thing, and this saddens me. People have a greed for reading and it should be satisfied.

"A person reading a good book is a meeting of minds, it is a one-to-one experience and children should have a choice of as many minds as is possible, from Terry Pratchett to Charles Dickens."

City slickers spread the word

Victoria Fletcher on how the Square Mile helps pupils in the East End to improve literacy



One of the Lloyd's underwriters helping East End youngsters with their reading

PEOPLE who work in the City of London are spending lunchtimes in East End schools, helping pupils to learn to read — and now they are to collect tokens from *The Times* to provide them with desperately needed books.

The employees are to urge colleagues to put the tokens in special collection bins around the office; the tokens will then be passed on to schools, which exchange them for books.

Sharon Merryman, community relations officer for Lloyd's of London, said she had been impressed by the number of companies and employees eager to go into schools near by in Tower Hamlets to help pupils on a one-to-one basis. "The uptake recently has been amazing. It is growing to such an extent that when I go to a see a company which is part of Lloyd's it is hard to get them to talk about anything else. They realise how good it is for them and for local kids."

After liaising with schools in Tower Hamlets for four years, volunteers from Lloyd's have realised that new books are urgently required if literacy levels are to continue to improve. Lloyd's says it will create collection points in each of its companies for the Free Books for Schools tokens, so employees who may not wish to teach in schools can still help out by donating tokens.

Ms Merrymen said that employees found watching pupils overcome difficulties extremely rewarding. "They say that when they watch the confidence of the child improve it is incredible. Firms like the scheme because it also allows staff from different departments to meet each other, which can create better co-operation back in the office."

The upsurge in City companies wishing to take part has been prompted by the National Year of Reading which began last September. Firms such as Clifford Chance, W H Smith and the Bankers Trust are involved and British Telecom is to announce its own pilot project to send 500 employees to teach in schools.

The Bank of England regularly sends 20 staff to two primary schools in Tower Hamlets. Linda Barnard, community relations manager, said the work had helped to forge links between the institution and local communities. Volunteers from the Bank found that it boosted their morale.

"The Bank of England has always felt it has a responsibility for society. We do this scheme for philanthropic reasons to bridge the gap between those with wealth and the less fortunate. It's also a popular project because it does not take up too much time," Ms Barnard said.

Peter Thompson, community operations manager for BT, said the company had decided to introduce the scheme in view of the Government's wish to encourage business involvement with schools and the drive to improve literacy in schools. "Companies helping to teach children to read is an idea which seems to have mushroomed." He added that the scheme could ultimately help to provide candiates qualified to join BT's workforce.

The number of tokens required per book will vary from about 100 to, for large atlases and dictionaries, 500.

YOUR TOKEN IS ON PAGE 24

Everyone can help a school to get more books by simply collecting the Free Books for Schools tokens from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and Walker's crisps. The school will be able to exchange the tokens for all types of books to suit every age of pupil. Schools can order as many copies as they wish of each book: 100 tokens to receive for a wide choice of paperback titles, 250 for longer, larger novels and 500 for audio books, teacher's Big Books, books in Braille, as well as world atlases and dictionaries.

Bevin told Perón: hands off Falklands

Anti-British agitation brought threat of conflict three decades before invasion, reports Mark Henderson

ERNEST BEVIN formally warned Argentina to keep its hands off the Falkland Islands or risk war with Britain, documents released under the 50-year rule have shown.

The Labour Foreign Secretary told his Argentine counterpart at a meeting in 1948 that Britain would not tolerate any attempt to seize the Falklands.

The warning to Juan Atilio Bramuglia followed intense anti-British agitation in Argentina, which diplomats feared was being whipped up by the populist Government of President Juan Perón to press its claim to the Falklands and other British possessions in the South Atlantic and Antartica.

"I thought it right to tell Dr Bramuglia that if any attack were made on the Falkland Islands we should defend ourselves and that there would be hostilities," Bevin wrote after the meeting in London. Bramuglia, he wrote, assured him that Argentina did not want to go to war over the claim.

A detailed Foreign Office briefing paper on Anglo-Argentinian relations, drafted in January 1948 and declassified at the weekend, also hints at the possibility of military action in the region. It notes that Perón twice ordered "elaborate naval expeditions" to British possessions in Antarctica, which committed "acts of trespass on British territory" by setting up bases on Deception Island and Gamma Island.

"These . . . were made the subject of two strongly-worded notes of protest to the Argentine Government in December 1947, and the question of what further action should be taken to defend British interests in the Antarctic is now under consideration," the paper said.

Bevin's intransigence over the Falklands stands in stark contrast to the position of Harold Wilson, who in 1968 held secret talks with Argentina about transferring sovereignty of the islands, according to documents released last week under the 30-year rule. The 1940s saw a marked deterioration in relations between Britain and Argentina, which had been largely friendly before the election of Perón in 1946. A series of reports from Britain's chargé d'affaires in Buenos Aires, G.P. Labouchere, also newly released, chart his growing anxiety at the intensity of anti-British feeling.


Perón: ordered elaborate naval exercises in region

Tension became acute after Reconquest Day on August 12, 1948, the public holiday marking Argentina's victory over British troops at Buenos Aires in 1806. The occasion was "celebrated with marked pomp and ceremony", Labouchere said, and was "accompanied by the type of effervescent patriotism that has become the peculiar characteristic of the present Perón administration".

A large crowd watched Perón light the "Flame of the Argentine Spirit" in the Plaza de la Mayo, after which 15 torches lit from the flame were carried away on Bedford trucks to the provinces.

As the last of the trucks left, Labouchere wrote, "it was announced amidst cheers that it carried the flame that was destined to go to the Falklands and the Antarctic".

Other actions by the Perón Government were also calculated to stir up anger at Britain over the Falklands, Labouchere said. A minister had publicly accepted a businessman's offer of $100,000 to build an Argentinian school in the islands, and a prefabricated building was made to be transported there to house a fisheries mission.

The Foreign Office's contemptuous attitude towards Argentina's posturing in the South Atlantic is illustrated by a handwritten note on the cover of one of the documents, inviting an official to "glance at the latest instalment of nonsense from the Argentine".

DIPLOMATS TRIED TO SILENCE CRITIC

British diplomats advised *The News Chronicle* not to publish reports from an Irish journalist in Trinidad because he was a "notoriously anti-British Catholic", documents from 1947 reveal. Gary MacEoin found another job as information officer with the Caribbean Commission Secretariat and wrote several articles for other publications criticising British policy in the Caribbean, attacking officials for trying to stop missionaries setting up Catholic schools.


Ernest Bevin: gave stern warning, though aides dismissed Argentinian actions as nonsense

Thirty opt for spartan life

By Jason Allardyce

ONE of Scotland's most beautiful but remote Hebridean islands might soon offer a spartan home to new inhabitants.

Scottish Natural Heritage, which manages Rum (pop: 19), recently announced that it was so concerned about the falling population that it would seek people to move in. At least 30 have made inquiries. The agency describes Rum, 14 miles from the West Highland mainland, as "a jewel in the crown of conservation management" where red deer flourish. Now man is an endangered species on an island where 400 people lived before the Highland Clearances.

The newcomers will enjoy spectacular scenery and views. But life is not exactly idyllic. The ferry runs four times a week — weather permitting; there is no mains water or electricity; and there is one shop. The sole road, a dirt track, does not go round the whole island.

Scottish Natural Heritage wants to attract self-sufficient people but says that the infrastructure cannot support a sudden increase in numbers: the aim is to build up to about 50 residents over ten years.

Hume 'out of touch with business'

CARDINAL Basil Hume and the new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool were criticised yesterday after claiming that family life was being jeopardised by people having to work over Christmas.

Interviewed for GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, Cardinal Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, said that, in the interests of family life, City traders should have refused to work over Christmas to prepare for the introduction of the euro and shop staff should also have declined to go in.

Bill Morris, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that he had started an important debate. He told GMTV: "I think what the Cardinal is saying is — in our quest for competitiveness we must have regard for humanising the workplace and looking after the family."

On the same programme, the Right Rev James Jones urged employers to take more account of the family. He said: "I think the way some people are made to work is very destructive of family life and people who lead companies ought to be more responsible."

Supermarkets said that employees had freedom of choice over whether they worked at Christmas.

Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, said that this was a multicultural society with many non-Christians happy to work over the festive period. She said: "Where is their evidence of people going to work against their will? I feel they are out of touch. There should be a balance. People should be committed to work and family."

Bishop Jones also called for tax allowances to be transferable between parents if one decides to stay at home to look after a child.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held over death of barmaid

The boyfriend of a barmaid found murdered after a New Year's Eve party was arrested yesterday. Kerry Scott, 24, was last seen walking home with Richard Tate, 29, from the pub where she worked. Her body was discovered on New Year's Day by a relative who became concerned when she failed to answer the telephone.

Miss Scott, who lodged at Waterlooville, Hampshire, had been severely beaten and had other injuries inflicted with a sharp instrument. Police said that Mr Tate, who lives a few doors away, was arrested at 5am at an address in London. They said inquiries into Miss Scott's death were continuing.

Army inquiry

Military police are investigating the death in custody of a former army doctor suspected of child sex abuse. Paul Morris, 46, who deserted 17 years ago amid similar allegations, died at the military prison in Colchester on December 20.

Three held

Police arrested three Gloucester teenagers on suspicion of murder. A 39-year-old sub-contractor who was involved in a fight in the city on December 22 later went home to Bedfordshire. He fell ill on Christmas Eve and died on Saturday.

Kidnap charge

An unemployed man aged 39 from Bath was charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment yesterday after the alleged abduction of a woman in the city last Wednesday. Katey Caven, 38, was found in Brixton, South London.

Queen's baubles

The Queen is auctioning her Christmas tree decorations at the Victoria and Albert Museum to raise £100,000 for the Society of Stars, which helps children with cerebral palsy. The 400 pieces include a fairy by designer Zandra Rhodes.

Five shot dead as Mafia feuds erupt in Sicily

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE authorities in Sicily were braced for a new Mafia war yesterday after five gangsters sipping coffee at a bar were shot and killed in the worst mob vendetta murders of their kind for a decade.

Two men armed with heavy Magnum and Beretta handguns burst into the bar at a petrol station in southern Sicily on Saturday evening, shooting down three mobsters at the counter and two others seated at a table. The assailants fired 40 shots, systematically applying *coups de grâce* in the neck of each victim before they left, the police said.

The gunmen sped off in a Fiat Uno from the petrol station between Vittoria and Comiso. Investigators said the killing of the men, aged from 21 to 32, was an "internal purge" of unruly elements within a clan of the *Stidda*, a vicious and secretive rival to the *Cosa Nostra* that has taken root in southern Sicily over the past ten years.

The attack is believed to be the worst inter-gangster violence in Sicily since eight people died in a shootout in Gela in 1990. The quintuple murder ends a long period of relative peace in Sicily, linked to regrouping of Mafia clans after the arrest of a string of *Cosa Nostra* kingpins.

That crackdown was launched in the wake of the 1992 assassinations of the two judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino and their police escort. The latest murders deal a blow to the southern Mezzogiorno where the image problem linked to organised crime is likely to discourage investment as Italy's poorer regions struggle to cope with the impact of the the euro.

Investigators identified the principal targets of the attack as Angelo Mirabella, 32, and Rosario Nobile, 27, whose ambitions to take over the *Carbonare Dominante* clan of the *Stidda* provoked the anger of dons determined to remain in control of the gang's lucrative extortion and drug peddling racket even while in prison, police sources said. Last year 18 leading *Stidda* bosses were jailed for life and 102 other mobsters received prison terms totalling 600 years.

Francesco Aiello, Mayor of Vittoria, urged the Government to provide police reinforcements and appealed to his 60,000 citizens to break the Mafia code of *omertà* or silence. The only survivor of the shooting, Ignazio Lorefice, the 62-year-old barman who hid behind the counter, said he "saw nothing."


TORSTEN BLACKWOOD / AFP

Dave Liniger, left, an American billionaire, and Bob Martin, a science reporter, test the electrical systems on the gondola of their Team RE/MAX balloon after announcing that their attempt to circle the Earth, flying on the edge of space, has been postponed until Friday because of high winds above the Australian launchpad at Alice Springs

Swedish King and Queen aid hurt skier

Stockholm: A Japanese skier who injured his head on the slopes of Sweden's top ski resort got the surprise of his life when the King and Queen of Sweden came to his aid.

"The Queen held my friend's head on her lap and she stopped the wound from bleeding by putting pressure on it with her fingers," Tadashi Sakaguchi told the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet*.

According to the paper, King Carl XVI Gustaf was the first person to alert rescuers to the accident, which happened at Aare in the northwest, while Queen Silvia cared for the injured skier, described as a man in his fifties but whose name was not given.

The wounded skier, who was with four friends, was recovering in hospital. The royal couple, who are enormously popular in Sweden for their easy-going manner, are avid skiers.

"When we wanted to thank them, they had already quietly disappeared in their limousine," Tadashi Sakaguchi said. *(AFP)*

WORLD IN BRIEF

Nine Filipinos killed in shootout after fire

Zamboanga, Philippines: Nine people were killed and 50 injured in a confused gun battle between Philippine troops and former Muslim rebels who had been co-operating to put out a fire. The gunfight started after a grenade was tossed into a group of troops, civilians and former rebels as they extinguished a fire in a supermarket in the southern town of Jolo in the island of Mindanao, officials reported. The troops and rebels both suspected the other of throwing the grenade and began shooting. All of those killed were civilians. *(Reuters)*

Boy hurt in gun game

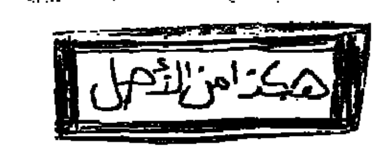
Orlando: A Florida boy aged 12 is in hospital in extremely critical condition after shooting himself in the head while playing Russian roulette, police here reported. The boy shot himself in the head with a .38-calibre revolver in what police say was an accident while playing Russian roulette with a friend aged 15. Police are looking for the friend, who called for help and then fled the scene, but do not consider him a suspect. *(AFP)*

China jails dissidents

Beijing: China has jailed two members of an opposition political organisation for nine months on what a Hong Kong-based rights group has called fabricated charges. Han Lifa and Cai Guihua are the latest members of the Chinese Democratic Party to be jailed in the Communists' fiercest crackdown on dissent in three years. Shanghai police told their families last month of the detentions, two months after they were last seen in public. *(AP)*

Tiger terror ended

Kathmandu: A man-eating tiger in Nepal, believed to have killed 50 people including children in the past six months, has been shot dead following requests by local people to hunt down the menace. Last year a tigress terrorised several villages in Baitadi district, 300 miles west of Kathmandu, and left 65 people dead before it was shot. *(AFP)*





Snow ploughs clear the concrete around grounded aircraft at Lamber International Airport in St Louis yesterday as some of the worst snowstorms ever recorded in the American Midwest left 11 people dead over the weekend (Damian Whitworth writes). Chicago was buried under

Midwest snowstorms kill 11

22 in of snow, the heaviest fall in more than 30 years. Richard Daley, the city's mayor, pleaded with people to stay indoors. The band of snow swept from Minnesota in the north as far south as Arkansas, where two people died in road accidents. Pile-ups of 60 vehicles or more were reported in several states, accounting for another seven deaths. In Illinois, two men apparently died of heart attacks while trying to shovel snow. Elsewhere, weather wreaked havoc with hundreds of flights taking people home after the holidays. Only a tenth of flights were able to get in or out of O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the nation's busiest.

Second UN jet brought down in Angola

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A SECOND United Nations cargo plane was shot out of the sky over Angola at the weekend as the 1994 peace agreement continued to unravel despite a 1,000-strong UN monitoring force.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, was outraged by the attack on the chartered C130 evacuating staff and equipment from the beleaguered city of Huambo to the capital, Luanda, on Saturday. All UN flights in the country have now been suspended.

The South African-owned plane — carrying four Angolans, two Filipinos, an American and a Namibian — was hit by a missile about 20 minutes after take-off, near the rebel stronghold of Bailundo. The pilot tried to return to Huambo, but crashed in rebel-controlled territory about 50 miles short of the city.

Troop-contributing countries were told of the attack as they met in New York to discuss the shooting down of another UN flight in the same area eight days earlier. On Boxing Day, another C130, also owned by TransAfrik of South Africa, crashed near by with 14 people aboard.

The latest outbreak in Angola's long-running civil war began last month when government troops moved against Unita when it failed to relinquish territory in the central highlands and disband its 30,000-man army as required by the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. Recent fighting has been concentrated near Huambo, the country's second largest city.

The UN began moving out its Huambo staff after a rebel artillery barrage killed at least eight people on Wednesday. Issa Diallo, head of the UN Observer Mission in Angola, defended the decision to continue the airlift despite the loss of the first transport plane. He said that four government aircraft and two other UN planes had flown out of the city safely on Saturday, and added: "One should draw the conclusion that it is not normal to continue shooting at UN planes."

The UN has been withdrawing its 1,000 monitors from the battle zones to Luanda, and the Mr Annan is due to report in two weeks on whether the peacekeeping mission should continue when its mandate expires on February 26.

Mr Annan, echoing an earlier demand by the Security Council, called for an "immediate ceasefire which will permit the conduct of search-and-rescue missions, as well as the relocation of UN staff to safer areas".

The Government claims that Unita is holding crash survivors, but the rebels deny that.

Albright set to snub Sharon

Jerusalem: In a sign of American dissatisfaction with Israel's freezing of the peace process, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, has reportedly refused to meet Ariel Sharon when the Foreign Minister visits America later this week (writes Ross Dunn).

The diplomatic snub comes as the White House is preparing to roll out the red carpet for Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who is expected to hold a summit meeting with President Clinton in March.

A spokesman for Mr Sharon refused to comment, but his office said in a statement that he would be meeting Dennis Ross, the US special envoy to the Middle East, in New York. Mr Ross is expected to visit the region next week in an effort to convince Israel to implement the Wye River agreement.

The Israeli Cabinet last month halted any more transfers of land in the West Bank under the accord until the Palestinians had met a list of conditions, including dropping threats to unilaterally declare an independent state in May. Analysts believe the agreement was frozen because Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, is campaigning to win back right-wing voters ahead of the May 17 elections.

In a sign that the campaign could turn violent, police yesterday arrested Yair Ben-Abu, 26, who was assigned to protect Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader, after the security guard was overheard saying that people like him [an Ashkenazi] should be killed.

Second Coming cultists arrested

US religious group is accused of plotting millennium mayhem, writes Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

ISRAELI police last night arrested eight members of an American Christian cult for allegedly plotting extreme acts of violence in the hope of bringing about the Second Coming of Jesus.

The planned violence allegedly included opening fire on Israeli police and at secret sites inside Jerusalem's Old City, with one probable target being the Temple Mount.

A senior police officer told reporters that the cult members believed that, if they died during the shootout, it would "lead them to heaven".

The arrests followed raids on the flats of the Denver-based apocalyptic Concerned Christians in two Jerusalem suburbs in the first sign of a crackdown against cults and Masonic groups ahead of the millennium.

"They planned to carry out violent and extreme acts in the streets of Jerusalem at the end of 1999 to start the process of bringing Jesus back to life," Brigadier-General Elihu Ben-Onn, the national police spokesman, said. "The arrests were carried out to protect certain sectors of the Israeli population and members of the cult themselves."

Israeli police say the leader of the group, Monte Kim Miller, who has foretold his own death on the streets of Jerusalem during 1999, is not in the country. Mr Miller, 44, has said he is one of the final two witnesses to the end of the world prophesied in the *Book of Revelations.*

The cult members, including at least six of their children, did not resist arrest. Up to 70 members are believed to be in Israel after disappearing from Denver in October. The Israeli secret police, Shin Bet, have been monitoring the movements of some since their arrival in November. It is believed that some of the Concerned Christians had left incriminating evidence on e-mail and telephone messages. Those arrested are all expected to be deported back to the United States.

The raid against them was led by Jerusalem's area commander Yair Yihaki, who said he was concerned to allow visiting pilgrims access to holy sites while preventing extremist groups from entering the country.

"The police will continue to work in every legal way to make possible freedom of religion and ritual in Jerusalem and in Israel, for all religions, in the year of the millennium," he said. "However, we will act firmly against the attempts of extreme groups to block access to Christians in the year 1999."

After the raids, neighbours said the cult members had not bothered them. "They were so nice, so quiet, so polite," said Rami Hanono, who lived near one of their houses.

Most of the cult members disappeared from Denver after Mr Miller prophesied that an earthquake would destroy the city. Although the calamity did not happen, many had already sold their belongings, and some headed for Israel.

Experts and relatives of members of the cult believe that Mr. Miller, who claims that God speaks through him, has the power to persuade his followers to take their own lives.

According to a 1997 affidavit, filed by Nicolette Weaver, 16, in a US district court, her mother, a cult member, had said she would kill her daughter if ordered to by Mr Miller.

"My mother told me in August 1996 that we have only 40 months left on Earth," the affidavit said. "My mother told me that if Kim Miller told her to kill me, she would." The affidavit was used successfully to award Nicolette's father sole custody.

Children's gifts make ailing Reagan smile

Snow globe and chocolate delight ex-President, writes Damian Whitworth

WHAT do you give a father who was once the most powerful man in the world but now doesn't even know what Christmas is? In a touching bulletin on Ronald Reagan's fight against Alzheimer's disease, his daughter has revealed how last Christmas the family delighted him with simple, childish gifts.

Patti Davis, who was famously estranged from her father when he was in office but is now trying to help him to make sense of a world he finds increasingly confusing, described how she and her brother, Michael, thought hard before presenting him with a snow globe, picture books and chocolates. They were rewarded with smiles but little comprehension.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Ms Davis did not say whether her father still recognises her. Recent reports have said that Mr Reagan, who is almost never seen in public, now only rarely recognises his wife, Nancy.

"Although my father is not in pain, he loses more of himself each month to Alzheimer's. For him, as for anyone who has the disease, time is the enemy. It becomes jumbled, confused, compressed and emptier all the time — hollowed out," Ms Davis wrote.

She and Michael, the Reagans' adopted son, arranged to give their father presents from them and their brother, Ron, at a meeting at their father's office shortly before Christmas. "We have all thought along the same lines: what will he like to look at, what will hold his attention, or, even better, tug at his imagination?" she wrote.

"I watch his hands as he tries to be careful, peeling tape from the wrappings. Then he just tears it, giving in to impatience perhaps. His eyes light up at the chocolates; for a moment we're co-conspirators, bringing him a delicacy he rarely gets. 'Those are all for you, dad,' Michael tells him. 'You don't have to share them with anyone.' 'Oh good,' he says playfully, pulling them towards him.

"He becomes engrossed in the books, the photographs of lakes and meadows and mountains. He turns the snow globe and smiles at the tiny winter wonderland. I tell him that when he tires of the sunshine outside the window, he can just look into the snow globe and change the season. He looks straight into my eyes and says flatly: 'OK'."



Reagan: rarely in public since Alzheimer's struck

She had chosen the snow globe hoping it might spark a memory of their time together when she was a child.

"I'm not sure if my father still understands Christmas, but I'm certain he understands giving," she says. "And for the time we are there, so do Michael and I. When my brother and I leave, I ask him who was given the greater gift, our father or us. He doesn't need to answer me; we both know."

Ms Davis, 45, was estranged from her parents for years. Even as he was ordering military action or discussing new arms purchases she was a critical peace activist. Later she incurred her parents' displeasure when she posed for *Playboy*. Now an author and screenwriter, she says the past differences have been overcome.

Ms Davis painted a sad picture of Mr Reagan going into his office in Los Angeles even though he is incapable of working.

"He still goes there for a couple of hours on weekday mornings. There isn't much for him to do, but that isn't the point. It's a routine, and with Alzheimer's routines are important. There is something comforting about cluttering up his desk with gifts and cards. A pad that's never written on is always in the same place, has been for months."

Sharif escapes assassination bid

Bomb blast has warned a tottering regime, says Christopher Thomas

NAWAZ SHARIF, the Pakistani Prime Minister, narrowly escaped assassination yesterday. A bomb exploded under a bridge outside the Punjabi capital, Lahore, shortly before Mr Sharif and his family were to have driven over it on their way to his farmhouse two miles away at Raiwind. Three passers-by and a police officer died in the blast which wrecked the bridge.

Three members of the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) whose supporters are Urdu-speaking immigrants from India and their descendants, were arrested in Karachi on suspicion of planting the device. Political intrigue and organised political violence are firmly established as part of Pakistan's disintegrating system of government: that Mr Sharif came so close to death will almost certainly provoke further violence and lead to more abuses by an overwhelmingly corrupt police force in its drive to eliminate the would-be assassins. "The Government has taken stringent measures to root out terrorism and this has further strengthened our determination to fight this menace," an official statement said.

Mushahid Hussain, the Information Minister, said the blast occurred on a route regularly used by Mr Sharif and his family. "But our Prime Minister is a brave man," he said. "I have just talked to him; he is unshaken. In fact, he is more concerned about those who died and were wounded in the explosion."

The spread of politically motivated violence was confirmed yesterday when a security guard discovered a bomb on a railway line near Sialkot, close to the border with India. The device, designed to explode under pressure, was defused 45 minutes before a crowded Lahore-bound train was due to pass over the track.

Two days before Christmas an explosion killed three worshippers at a Roman Catholic church in Karachi, demonstrating a rise in religious persecution.

Mr Sharif is the most powerful leader in Pakistan's shaky democratic history. He has a huge parliamentary majority, enabling him to do practically as he wishes — including taking the country deeper into Islamisation in the hope of creating some sense of national identity and unity — and the army is quiescent. With no overt military opposition to him, his political opponents have become frustrated and increasingly angry as the country careers into worsening social and economic crises.

Bomb disposal experts sifted through the rubble of the bridge last night for clues, but in a country so awash with guns, explosives and professional terrorists they are unlikely to find anything that might identify the attackers conclusively.

Mr Sharif blames the MQM for most of the violence in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, with a population of 14 million, which has been controlled by the MQM since the mid-1980s. MQM leaders say that blaming the group is another attempt by Mr Sharif's Government to destroy its political base in the province of Sindh and force its leaders underground. "The Government wants to use this incident to launch a fresh crackdown on our party," a spokesman said. "They want to eliminate the MQM."

Mr Sharif, whose first term in office was cut short when the military engineered his downfall, has achieved the near-impossible by becoming as unpopular as Benazir Bhutto, his discredited predecessor, whose two terms in power were terminated by the military because of corruption and incompetence.

But her chaotic periods in office are starting to look like a golden era compared with the national disintegration overseen by Mr Sharif. The country is effectively bankrupt and prices of essential goods have soared — in some cases by more than 20 per cent — since Pakistan detonated nuclear devices in May.

The explosions brought a short-term surge of national pride, but now are widely condemned by Pakistanis for bringing economic catastrophe on the nation.

Political instability has been heightened by Mr Sharif's active support for the extremist Taleban militia in neighbouring Afghanistan, whose brutal enforcement of strict rules of behaviour he has praised. This is a measure of how desperate he has become to bring some sense of order to a country that despises its politicians and that runs to a large degree on a black economy in which drugs play a pivotal role.

Given the depth of its unpopularity, Mr Sharif's administration looks destined to fall long before its term is over.

A victim's wife breaks down at the blast site

MOHSIN RAZA / REUTERS



Pakistani police examine the wreckage of the bridge after the blast on the route home of Nawaz Sharif, right

Baghdad threat to UN aid workers

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ is threatening to provoke a new crisis by throwing out British and American relief workers involved in humanitarian projects under the United Nations' "oil-for-food" programme.

The Iraqi decision, conveyed verbally to UN officials in Baghdad, presents a direct challenge to the long-standing principle that the UN selects its own international staff.

The move presents a dilemma for Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, who must decide whether to cave in to Iraq's demands or to halt the oil-for-food programme until Iraq backs down.

Iraq is apparently targeting 12 Britons and one American who work in humanitarian projects funded by the oil-for-food scheme, which allows the export of a limited amount of oil to finance purchases of food, medicine and other much-needed supplies.

Despite international sanctions imposed eight years ago, Iraqis will be entitled for the first time this year to limited free health care.

All but two of the threatened British and American staff work on UN projects in three Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Iraq, but they still require Iraqi visas.

Five of the Britons are involved in a UN mine-removing effort in the north that would allow Kurds to return to their homes after being forced out by military action, a project for which Baghdad has little sympathy. Eight of the 13 UN staff affected are outside Iraq for Christmas and new year's leave, and Iraq is refusing to grant them permission to re-enter the country.

Bin Laden admits instigating attacks

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE exiled Saudi radical, Osama bin Laden, appears to have admitted he "instigated" the bombing of the US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam as part of his holy war against Jews and Americans.

The renegade billionaire, who is also suspected of a role in the kidnapping of Western visitors in Yemen, made his admission to *Time* magazine at his hideout in the Afghan desert on December 22.

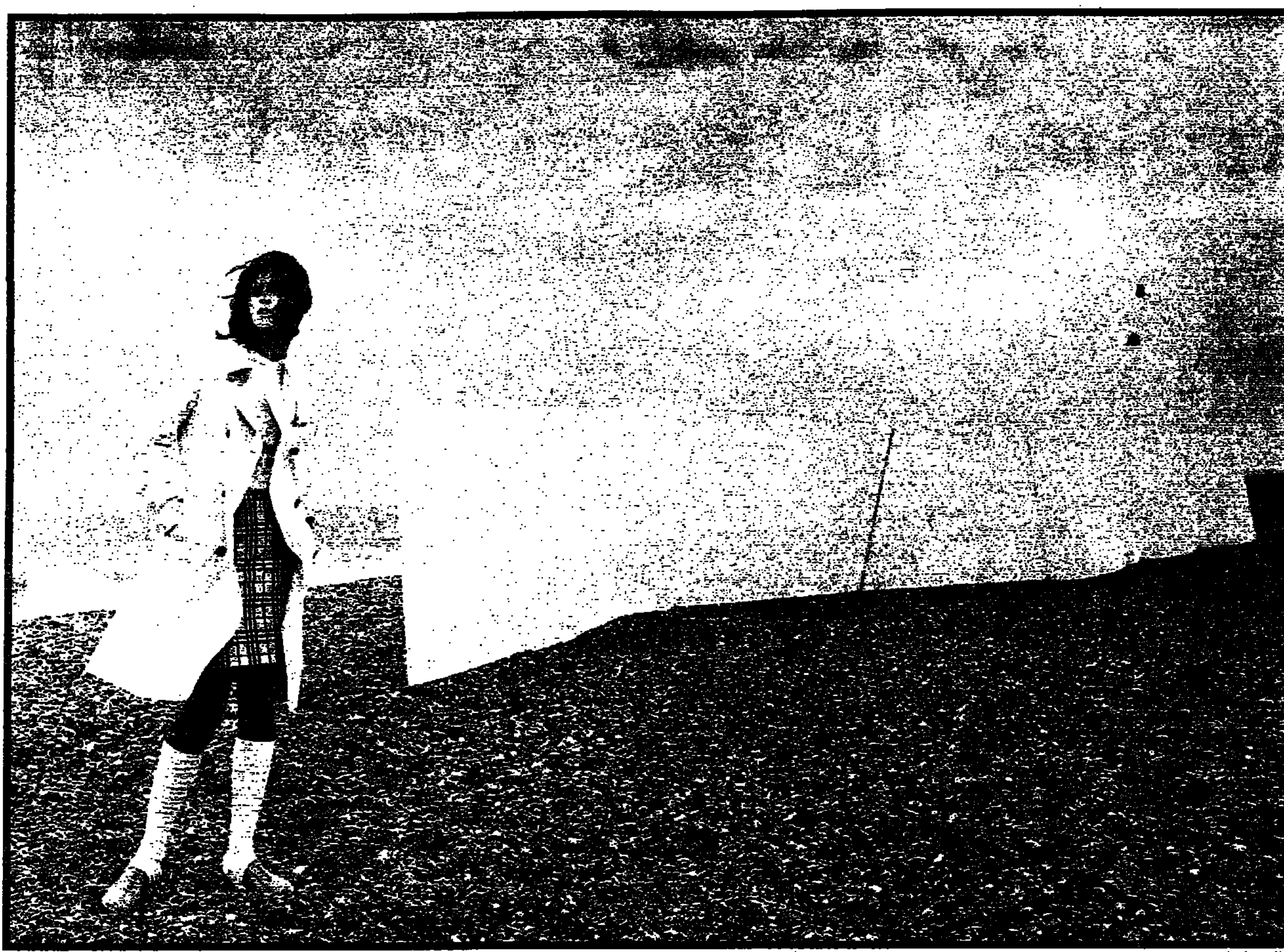
"If the instigation for jihad (holy war) against the Jews and the Americans ... is considered a crime, then let history be a witness that I am a criminal," he said. "Our job is to instigate and, by the grace of God, we did that, and certain people responded to this instigation."

Holding an AK47 assault rifle, the fundamentalist leader described the acquisition of chemical and nuclear weapons as a religious duty and praised the 1993 attack in Somalia that killed 18 American peacekeeping troops.

"Hostility towards America is a religious duty and we hope to be rewarded for it by God," he said. "I am confident that Muslims will be able to end the legend of the so-called superpower that is America."

He added that Washington's effort to ruin him economically had failed.

the fashion revolution



Above and below: cream trench coat, £615, above the knee check skirt, £155, cream stretch knitted top, £150, and leather lace-up shoes, £325. All items are available from Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 3343). Photographs: MARIO TESTINO

EMMA HOPE
Shoe designer

STYLE FILE by Deborah Brett

Describe your style.
Currently, dark pinstripe jackets with a white T-shirt, navy trousers, glitter cardigans and skirts from "dressing-up box shops".

What do you think of the current fashion trends?
I like skinny, sweeping trousers and Voyage's turquoise, sparkly, leopard-print devoré dresses. And I love next spring's coral and aqua colours.

What period in fashion do you love?
The Thirties and Forties — Marlene Dietrich and Carole Lombard. I love the blonde hair, the trousers, the inquiring eyebrows.

When do you go shopping?
When it all gets too much.

What are your pet hates in the world of fashion?
It is unnecessary to criticise anyone, however annoying their stuff is, if they are trying to be creative.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought?
My horse, Flash, redeemed by the grazing package of £8 a week, but that doesn't include worming.

What accessory can you not live without?
My Mont Blanc pen. If there was a fire, I'd be sad if I couldn't find Cracky the dog.

Where do you like to shop?
I love Peter Jones because it is so calm, and the razzmatazz of Westbourne Grove. I also like any shop that sells old clothes and handbags.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift?
Little dangly aquamarine earrings from Dinny Hall.

What is your style motto?
If in any doubt, buy both.



have always been great advertising concepts," he says. Guy Bordin shot fantastic pictures for Charles Jourdan. Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon also produced some of their greatest work for ads, but they tended to be exceptions.

"Nowadays, most of the leading fashion houses realise that a very striking campaign works on two levels — it makes an impact on the public and creates heat within the industry itself.

"If a staid company suddenly starts using an avant-garde photographer, that instantly makes people in the business talk and, because this morning's insider gossip is this afternoon's MTV headline, ultimately that sense of curiosity works its way through to the public."

This was certainly the case with Burberrys. When Rosemary Bravo flew Concorde into London this year from a high-powered job at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, in order to rescue the company from Burberry-check hell, what kept the story alive in the critical lull between her much-heralded arrival and the first batch of clothes bearing the new, sleek imprint — at least as far as the industry's opinion leaders were concerned — was the news that Mario Testino, Fabien Baron (the much-lauded art director of *Harpers Bazaar* magazine) and Stella Tennant were collaborating on the campaign.

This information encouraged the kind of people who previously would not have crossed the street to check the label out to jet into London to view early samples.

By the time that the finished collection was ready — complete with the perfect slimmed-down trench, spot-on pleated skirts and updated cashmere pieces — Joseph in London had placed orders, as had Bergdorf Goodman and Barneys in New York (three stores that, in the past, would have been as likely to stock Burberrys on their rails as they would be to drape George at Asda across their windows). Clearly this would never have happened if the somewhat staid, tourist-fodder Burberrys clothes had not been transformed into a sharp, focused collection of must-haves, but equally there's no doubt that without a strong campaign retailers would have been much less willing to take a risk with what is essentially an entirely new collection.

"Obviously when you approach a campaign, you choose the people whose work you most admire," says Bravo, "but it would be disingenuous not to concede that by hiring from the A-list, you're sending out messages about the kind of player you intend your company to be."

Photographers are no less proud of their advertising work than are their clients. "Six years ago I was always hearing from photographers and models that they were doing what they called money jobs," says Lucinda Chambers, the fashion director of British *Vogue*. "But now they do it for the challenge and the excitement — and they're proud of them, whereas previously they would keep quiet about them. Maybe there is more integrity involved, or perhaps the campaigns pay so well that photographers can afford to be selective.

"Either way, the A-list only does jobs that will stretch them creatively. They see no distinction between advertising work and their editorial, because even though their names do not appear on the advertising, everyone in the business knows who's shot what. If anything, photographers and models actually work harder on the ads because they are being paid astronomical amounts. With editorial, they earn so little that some of them adopt the attitude that the magazine is lucky to have them at all.

"Certainly, when it comes to exhibitions and coffee table tomes, Mario Testino is happy to display his advertising work alongside his editorial — not surprisingly, given that many people credit the highly glamorised, sexually charged campaigns he shot for Gucci as being a key factor in the phenomenal turnaround of the company's image in the Nineties."

He also notes that "the big thing that happened to fashion this decade is that commercial stopped being a dirty word. In fact, magazines became much more commercial than they had ever been before, so the moral line between editorial and advertising blurred anyway.

"Everyone's realised that there's nothing wrong with selling stuff, and people have realised that if they want to be totally pure, they should be working in an art gallery, not fashion."

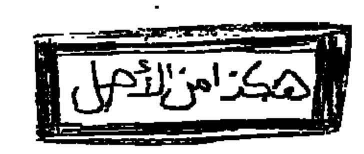
If the top photographers are now accorded an unprecedented amount of freedom in the way that they choose to shoot a campaign, they are still required to provide the client with detailed storyboards and Polaroid photographs before they shoot the real thing. If this approach makes new Labour's pager-obsession look lax, the point is that advertising campaigns offer clients perhaps their best opportunity of the season to get their mission statement across.

"At Burberrys, because we are trying to revolutionise the merchandise, we have very specific things to say," says Rosemary Bravo. "We have to explain to the customer that the ethos is British, but not staid, cross-generational but modern, as well as focus people on the fabrics."

This is the company that invented gabardine, after all. "You might get great pictures in a newspaper or magazine that cost you nothing," continues Bravo. "On the other hand, they might have to drop the picture of your jumper at the last minute because another story came up. Either way you could never guarantee that they'll get across the messages you see as important."

All parties admit that it is impossible to quantify the impact of a campaign in terms of sales, but agree that a good one does get customers into the stores. Given that MaxMara has 800 of the latter, and a turnover of $1 billion to maintain, it's not difficult to see why the stakes are so high.

No wonder that there was a studious air of concentration on Steven Meisel's set during his three-day MaxMara extravaganza. As Giorgio Guidotti says: "You can rehearse all you like, but even £30,000 a day doesn't always ensure that the model won't miss her flight."



THE NEW DIET REVOLUTION

and stay slim for all your life

stores are filled, and there is still more glucose in the blood beyond that which the body needs to function, insulin will convert the excess to fatty tissue called triglyceride, which we carry on our bodies as the main chemical constituent of adipose tissue (the stuff you're trying to lose). That is why insulin has been called the "fat-producing hormone".

As an overweight person becomes fatter, the insulin problem expands. Numerous studies have shown that the obese (and diabetic) individual is extremely unresponsive to the action of insulin. Carbohydrates are triggering the release of large quantities of the hormone, but the body is incapable of utilising it efficiently. The body responds by putting out yet more insulin.

The insulin "receptors" on the surface of the body's cells are blocked from carrying out their function, which in turn prevents insulin from stimulating the transfer of glucose to the cells for energy use. Mediated by high insulin lev-





Sugar is out, fat is in

els, your body has become intent on saving fat. Losing weight is not a question of willpower, but of turning off the insulin spigot. The way to do that is through ketosis.

Being in ketosis means that you're turning off your fat stores and using them as the source of fuel that they were meant to be. When your body is releasing the carbon compounds called ketones, that is chemical proof that you are consuming your own stored fat. When a person on a safe low-carbohydrate diet is releasing ketones, he or she is in the fat-dissolving state known as "benign dietary ketosis" (BDK — there is confusion among laymen between BDK and the ketosis of diabetic ketoacidosis, where the diabetic has been consuming carbohydrates and has high blood sugar).

Apart from burning off fat, one of the most attractive features of any low-carbohydrate, *ketosis-producing* diet is that it suppresses hunger and lowers the appetite. There have been many low-carbohydrate diets *over the years.*

But many of them do not bring carbohydrates down to a level (*generally less than 40 grams a day*) *that will permit* benign dietary ketosis. The Atkins programme does.

However, *you do* not have to be austere — you can enjoy a roast leg of lamb, lobster or even bacon and eggs In its most liberal, lifetime-maintenance form, the diet contains most vegetables, nuts and seeds, grains *and starches, and* some fruits. It also contains a sumptuous variety of delicious protein foods and some high-fat foods such as butter and *cream.*

That is because fat satiates the appetite. Fat stops the carbohydrate craving. And fat, in the absence of carbohydrate, accelerates the burning of stored fat. Thus, the wise dieter can use fat to his or her advantage.

Still, the Atkins diet is not a high-fat diet, partly because some of the largest sources of fat in the modern diet are junk foods, which you are not allowed now. For even though this diet is about the benefits of fat and protein, it is important *to emphasise* that the *real* source of health improvement on this diet will come from excluding the typically gargantuan modern consumption of junk carbohydrates. On the Atkins diet, you may be eating a larger quantity of meat, fish, fowl, eggs and butter than you consumed previously, but you will probably be eating less fat overall.

The beauty of this diet is that you will succeed even though you may have always been hungry, tired, depressed and unsuccessful on other regimes. This diet banishes fatigue, irritability, poor concentration, insomnia and dizziness through lowering the amount of blood sugar and refined carbohydrates. The Atkins programme will keep you slim and healthy for a long life while you enjoy a varied, rich and satisfying diet.

● *Extracted from* Dr Atkins' New Diet Revolution *by Dr Robert C. Atkins, published by Vermilion at £6.99.* Times *readers can order a copy (free postage/packing) by calling* The Times *Bookshop on 0990-134459. Copyright Dr Robert C. Atkins 1999*

TONY LATHAM/TONY STONE IMAGES



By the time they are adults, many people have progressively less balanced diets, and realise that they have a problem

CARBOHYDRATE GRAM COUNTER

FOOD	GRAMS	CARBOHYDRATE
MILK PRODUCTS		
Milk	230ml/8oz	12
Semi-skimmed	30ml/1oz	1.3
Cream	single, 30ml/1oz	1
Whipping	30ml/1oz	1
Plain yoghurt	skimmed, 230ml/8oz	13
	whole, plain, 230ml/8oz	12
CHEESE		
Cheddar	30g/1oz	0.6
Swiss	30g/1oz	1
Cottage	plain, 230g/8oz	8.3
Cottage	reduced fat, 230g/8oz	8.3
Cream cheese	30g/1oz	0.5
Camembert	30g/1oz	0.5
Feta	30g/1oz	1
Mozzarella	30g/1oz	1
Roquefort	30g/1oz	0.6
VEGETABLES		
Asparagus	6 spears	3
Beans, French	boiled, 50g/1 3/4oz	3.3
Beetroot	2.5cm/1in in diameter	15.6
Broccoli	cooked, 60g/2oz	1
Brussels sprouts	4	6
Cabbage	80g/2 1/2oz	4
Carrot	18cm/7in	6
Cauliflower	cooked, 60g/2oz	2
Cucumber	6 slices	2
Lettuce	cos, 2 leaves	2
	round, 1 head, 15cm/6in	9
	iceberg, 1/6 head	2
Mushrooms	10 small or 4 large	4
Onion	60cm/2.5in	10
Peas	cooked, 60g/2oz	6
Peppers: green	2 rings	1
Potato	baked, 13x6cm/5x2.5in	21
Rhubarb	stewed, 100g	7
Spinach	100g/3 1/2oz	4
Spring greens	80g/2 1/2oz	9
Swede	cooked, 60g/2oz	5
Sweetcorn	1 ear	16
Sweet potato	13x5cm/5x2in	36
Tomato	raw, 6cm/2 1/2in	9
	cooked, 60g/2oz	6
	juice, 20ml/4 oz	5
Turnips	cooked, 60g/2oz	4
PROTEIN		
Fish, poultry, meat or eggs		0-trace amounts

TARGETED NUTRITION

WHEN you go down to a very low level of vegetable consumption during the first 14 days — the strictest part of the diet — you will be consuming inadequate amounts of certain nutrients.

I recommend nutritional supplements for everyone. In fact, the more I learn about nutritional supplements, the more nutritional components I discover that can help nearly everyone. The antioxidant nutrients, for example, help to protect against heart disease, cancer and ageing. Who *would not benefit from them?*

Multiply that health-stimulating benefit by the number of nutritional breakthroughs that have accumulated during the past two decades, and you can easily see why my average patient takes more than 30 vitamin pills each day.

But for adequate nutritional support during a 14-day diet, find a very broad multiple vitamin. Such a formula should contain considerably more than the RDA of B complex and of vitamin C, and at least 40 nutrients.

Do not expect to take fewer than four pills a day. Ideally, chromium picolinate (200 to 600 mcg) should be included, to help to facilitate sugar metabolism. If you have sugar cravings, then you must include L-Glutamine (500 to 1,000 mcg) before each meal. This is a natural amino acid that can serve directly as fuel for the brain. If you are con*cerned about a raised choles*terol level from the beginning, you should be sure to include two borage oil capsules, two tablespoons of lecithin granules a day and 300mg of pantethine before each meal.

● *Note: This phase of the diet is not appropriate for pregnant women or for people with severe kidney disease.*

MEAL PLANNER IDEAS FOR THE INDUCTION DIET



BREAKFAST

Eggs, scrambled or fried in butter with streaky or back bacon, ham, or sugarless sausage; smoked salmon or mixed smoked fish and 60g (2oz) of cream cheese;

Omelette 2 eggs, 1tbsp whipping cream, 15g (½oz) butter with Gruyère cheese and spinach/goat's cheese and chives, corned beef or pastrami.

Pancake 40g (1½oz) soya flour, 3 eggs, 120ml (4fl oz) water, ½ teaspoon salt, cooking oil. Liquidise, then heat a pan covered with oil. Cook 3tbsp of mixture at a time. This will give you 6 servings for a carbohydrate gram count of 2 each with 55ml (2oz) soured cream.



LUNCH

Cheeseburger or bacon cheeseburger, no bun; gherkin spear; clear chicken consommé (read label); 30-60g (1-2oz) tossed salad with a selection of salad greens and with oil and vinegar dressing, blue cheese dressing or creamy garlic dressing; assorted cold meats – ham, tongue, salami, roast beef, chicken, turkey, and salad as above; cucumbers in sour cream; tuna, chicken, egg, ham or lobster mayonnaise (use pure mayonnaise, not imitation) with chopped celery, onions, spring onions, capers etc. and hard-boiled egg, if desired



DINNER

Starters: Seafood salad; prosciutto; prawns in garlic sauce; lobster in clarified butter.

Main courses: Roast leg of lamb; chicken salad; warm beef, mushroom and watercress salad flavoured with horseradish.

Side dishes: 110g (4oz) of steamed vegetables from permissible vegetable list; giant mushrooms sautéed in olive oil

Dessert: Sugar-free jelly (plus dollop of whipped, artificially sweetened whipping cream)

Snacks: All snacks that are made exclusively from meat, fish, fowl and eggs. Basic pancake recipe (see above).

Sweet cheese snack 110g (4oz) cream cheese, 2 eggs (separated), 3tsp equivalent of sugar substitute; heat oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4 or equivalent; cream cheese with yolks, add sugar substitute, beat egg white until stiff, fold into mixture, drop teaspoonfuls on to greased baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes. Makes 18 snacks of 0.3 carb grams per serving each.

Beverages: For all diets: water; soda water and sparkling mineral water; flavoured sparkling mineral waters (must specify no calories); herbal tea; decaffeinated coffee or tea. On Induction or Maintenance diet: artificial sweetened fizzy orange drink containing some natural juice.

THERE are four Atkins diets. Number one is the Induction Diet, which crashes you through most weight-loss barriers no matter how liable your body is to retaining fat. Diet Two is Ongoing Weight Loss: it will carry you smoothly *towards your goal. Diet* Three is Pre-Maintenance: it outlines a style of eating that, with a degree of diligence, will keep you *slim for ever. Diet* Four is the Maintenance Diet.

The main purpose of the Induction Diet is to correct an unbalanced metabolism. It will switch the body from a carbohydrate-burning metabolism to a fat-burning metabolism, stabilise blood sugar, halt hypoglycaemic symptoms, stop cravings and break addictive eating patterns.

On the Induction Diet you *can have no more than 20g of* carbohydrate a day — ie, about 170g (6oz) of salad vegetables, or 120g (4oz) of salad and 130g (4oz) of cooked vegetables in the less than 10 per cent carbohydrate category.

Using a carbohydrate gram counter, you could find other combinations totalling less than 20g of carbohydrate — for example, nuts, seeds, olives, avocados, cheese, cream and soured cream.

The Induction Diet consists of pure proteins, pure fats (butter, olive oil and mayonnaise are permitted) *and combinations* of protein and fat. You should strive for the maximum amount of fat and the *minimum of carbohydrate during* this initial period.

So what can you eat freely

THE INDUCTION DIET

on the Induction Diet? To begin with, any meat, fish, shellfish, fowl, egg dishes and almost all cheese (all of the last have some carbohydrate con*tent, and quantities are gov*erned by that).

Other permissible foods include vegetables of 10 per cent carbohydrate or less: lettuces, chives, cucumber, radishes, fennel, peppers, celery, alfalfa sprouts, mushrooms, morels, olives, asparagus, beans, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, aubergine, leeks, spinach, courgettes, pumpkin, turnips, broccoli, pumpkin, tomato, onion, rhubarb, avocado, Brussels sprouts, artichoke hearts.

You may garnish salads with crumbled crisp bacon, *grated* cheese, *minced hard*-boiled egg, soured cream, minced sautéed mushrooms, anchovies.

You can use all vegetable oils, and the following artificial sweeteners: saccharine, aspartame, cyclamate acesulfame-K.

Sweeteners such as sorbitol, mannitol and other hexitols are not allowed, nor are any natural sweeteners ending in the letters -ose, such as maltose and fructose.

Common mistakes to avoid: Note that the 14-day diet contains no fruit, bread, grains, starchy vegetables or dairy products other than *cheese, cream or butter. Avoid* diet products unless they specifically state "no carbohydrates". The word sugarless is not sufficient.

Many products that you do not normally think of as foods, such as chewing gum, cough syrups and cough drops, are filled with sugar or other caloric sweeteners and must be avoided.

TOMORROW

Why dieters can eat fat, plus the next stage of the Atkins plan — the Ongoing Weight Loss diet

The pictures worth millions in







Lisa Armstrong

FASHION EDITOR

Ad campaigns are crucial to image-building — and design houses are prepared to pay

By the time that they have been beamed around the world, the combined cost of the pictures you see on these pages will run to several million pounds. That's because they are previews from the spring campaigns from Burberrys and *MaxMara*, two companies whose beautiful, unsensationalist clothes — the kind most women aspire to — require, ironically, careful framing if they are to compete with the more outré designs that will be aiming to scorch an indelible impression on the collective consciousness over the coming months.

Advertising shoots have always been famous for their lavish expenditure. They have not, however, always been anticipated with quite as much interest as they are nowadays.

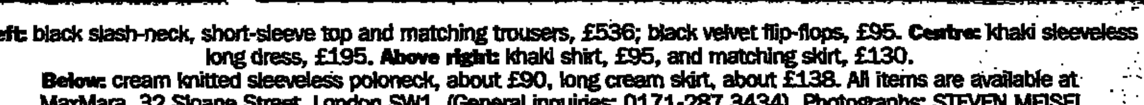
It took a team of 18 to realise the *MaxMara* pictures shown here, including Carolyn Murphy, the model, the photographer Steven Meisel, and his four assistants, the hairdresser's assistants and the ironer — roughly three times as many as the average magazine would provide. And whereas editorial (even for a glossy front cover) gets away with paying photographers and models around £200 a day, someone in Meisel's orbit would expect upwards of £30,000. (History, alas, does not record what the ironer is paid.) Flying everyone first-class is now *de rigueur*, and it is hardly surprising that these epic productions burn through a company's profits.

But a good deal of agonising will have gone into more than just the money for these photographs: ad campaigns are the single most crucial tool in a company's image-building (particularly in the case of Burberrys, which is at the "sensitive, second season" stage of relaunching itself as a modern, slick label) and ney have become as much a pat of fashion iconography as the pictures photographers take for the top glossies.

It was not always thus. There was a time when the consumers of advertising were considered to be less visually sophisticated than the kind of readers who flick through fashion magazines — even though the images frequently sat side by side. Not surprisingly, photographers, stylists and models would do advertising strictly for the (substantial) fees. But now, as Giorgio Guidotti, the creative director of MaxMara, says: "The public is so visually aware that no one can afford to put out substandard images. Especially when they will be blazing across giant billboards from Sunset Boulevard to Laforet in Tokyo. There's so much information; even in a tiny village in Italy you can have access to the latest catwalk directions via the Internet.

"So whereas we used always to worry about frightening off the consumer, and invariably found ourselves holding back, now we definitely see ourselves competing with editorial in terms of trying to push boundaries a little bit."

That there is huge kudos attached to working on the big campaigns reveals a great deal about the fluidity that exists between commercial and "artistic" projects. At any rate, among fashion afionados, speculation each season to see who has done the new Gucci (Mario Testino) or Calvin Klein (Testino again) campaigns certainly rivals (if not entirely eclipses) any interest in the next Turner Prize recipient. Testino, who shot the Burberrys pictures of Stella Tennant shown here, says this is indicative of the way fashion attitudes have changed. "There



Left: black slash-neck, short-sleeve top and matching trousers, £536; black velvet flip-flops, £95. **Centre:** khaki sleeveless long dress, £195. **Above right:** khaki shirt, £95, and matching skirt, £130.
Below: cream knitted sleeveless poloneck, about £90, long cream skirt, about £138. All items are available at MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, London SW1. (General inquiries: 0171-287 3434). Photographs: STEVEN MEISEL





FASHION DIARY

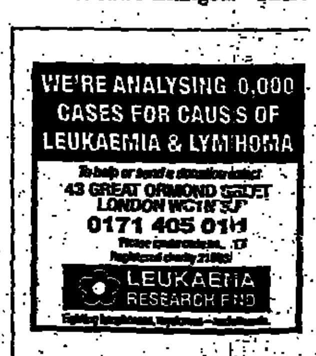
By Lisa Armstrong

BAGS have become the grown-up woman's version of the comic annual: the fashion cognoscenti have this year's model. Well aware of this, the large fashion houses are rolling out new versions every six months. This winter, Fendi clawed back its credibility with the tiny cashmere Baguette. But if your name has finally reached the top of the waiting list, scrap it. The Baguette has been ousted by the Fendi Croissant, a half-moon-shaped variation that cups daintily under the arm.

Next up for consideration is Gucci's Jacqueline, another semicircular reticule that comes in two sizes and will hit the stores this month. It marks a return to Gucci's flashier, monogrammed past. When Dawn Mello took over as the head of design in the late 1980s, her mission was to strip the company's products of its tainted logo. She deleted 10,000 lines, and Tom Ford, her successor, continued the good fight. At the time this was considered brave to the point of insanity. Yet Gucci has been one of the hottest labels of the 1990s.

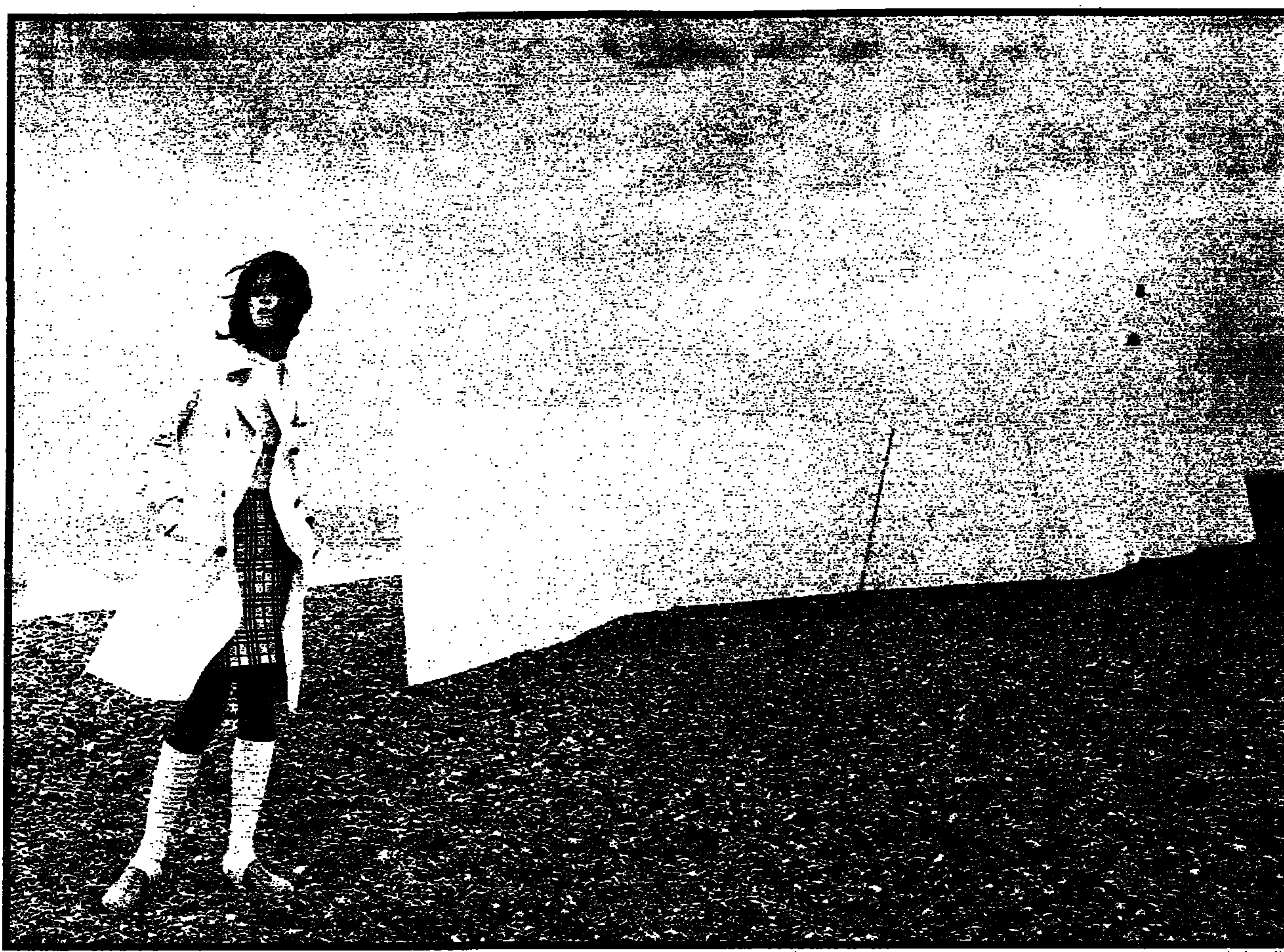
The company now feels sufficiently secure in its hard-won mantle of chic to return to the basics it once shunned. Enter The Jacqueline, from £250, spattered with the GG logo and embellished with those red and green stripes that once caused Dawn Mello to shudder. Even stranger, it looks very good.

James Laver, the fashion historian, once wrote that it took three decades for a discarded trend to get back on the road to fashion rehabilitation. At the end of the second millennium, however, it takes roughly eight years.



هكذا من الأصل

the fashion revolution





Above and below: cream trench coat, £615, above the knee check skirt, £155, cream stretch knitted top, £150, and leather lace-up shoes, £325. All items are available from Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 3343). Photographs: MARIO TESTINO

have always been great advertising concepts," he says. Guy Bordin shot fantastic pictures for Charles Jourdan. Helmut Newton and Richard Avedon also produced some of their greatest work for ads, but they tended to be exceptions.

"Nowadays, most of the leading fashion houses realise that a very striking campaign works on two levels — it makes an impact on the public and creates heat within the industry itself.

"If a staid company suddenly starts using an avant-garde photographer, that instantly makes people in the business talk and, because this morning's insider gossip is this afternoon's MTV headline, ultimately that sense of curiosity works its way through to the public."

This was certainly the case with Burberrys. When Rosemary Bravo flew Concorde into London this year from a high-powered job at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, in order to rescue the company from Burberry-check hell, what kept the story alive in the critical lull between her much-heralded arrival and the first batch of clothes bearing the new, sleek imprint — at least as far as the industry's opinion leaders were concerned — was the news that Mario Testino, Fabien Baron (the much-lauded art director of *Harpers Bazaar* magazine) and Stella Tennant were collaborating on the campaign.

This information encouraged the kind of people who previously would not have crossed the street to check the label out to jet into London to view early samples.

By the time that the finished collection was ready — complete with the perfect slimmed-down trench, spot-on pleated skirts and updated cashmere pieces — Joseph in London had placed orders, as had Bergdorf Goodman and Barneys in New York (three stores that, in the past, would have been as likely to stock Burberrys on their rails as they would be to drape George at Asda across their windows). Clearly this would never have happened if the somewhat staid, tourist-fodder Burberrys clothes had not been transformed into a sharp, focused collection of must-haves, but equally there's no doubt that without a strong campaign retailers would have been much less willing to take a risk with what is essentially an entirely new collection.

"Obviously when you approach a campaign, you choose the people whose work you most admire," says Bravo, "but it would be disingenuous not to concede that by hiring from the A-list, you're sending out messages about the kind of player you intend your company to be."

Photographers are no less proud of their advertising work than are their clients. "Six years ago I was always hearing from photographers and models that they were doing what they called money jobs," says Lucinda Chambers, the fashion director of British *Vogue*. "But now they do it for the challenge and the excitement — and they're proud of them, whereas previously they would keep quiet about them. Maybe there is more integrity involved, or perhaps the campaigns pay so well that photographers can afford to be selective.

"Either way, the A-list only does jobs that will stretch them creatively. They see no distinction between advertising work and their editorial, because even though their names do not appear on the advertising, everyone in the business knows who's shot what. If anything, photographers and models actually work harder on the ads because they are being paid astronomical amounts. With editorial, they earn so little that some of them adopt the attitude that the magazine is lucky to have them at all.

"Certainly, when it comes to exhibitions and coffee table tomes, Mario Testino is happy to display his advertising work alongside his editorial — not surprisingly, given that many people credit the highly glamorised, sexually charged campaigns he shot for Gucci as being a key factor in the phenomenal turnaround of the company's image in the Nineties."

He also notes that "the big thing that happened to fashion this decade is that commercial stopped being a dirty word. In fact, magazines became much more commercial than they had ever been before, so the moral line between editorial and advertising blurred anyway.

"Everyone's realised that there's nothing wrong with selling stuff, and people have realised that if they want to be totally pure, they should be working in an art gallery, not fashion."

If the top photographers are now accorded an unprecedented amount of freedom in the way that they choose to shoot a campaign, they are still required to provide the client with detailed storyboards and Polaroid photographs before they shoot the real thing. If this approach makes new Labour's pager-obsession look lax, the point is that advertising campaigns offer clients perhaps their best opportunity of the season to get their mission statement across.

"At Burberrys, because we are trying to revolutionise the merchandise, we have very specific things to say," says Rosemary Bravo. "We have to explain to the customer that the ethos is British, but not staid, cross-generational but modern, as well as focus people on the fabrics."

This is the company that invented gabardine, after all. "You might get great pictures in a newspaper or magazine that cost you nothing," continues Bravo. "On the other hand, they might have to drop the picture of your jumper at the last minute because another story came up. Either way you could never guarantee that they'll get across the messages you see as important."

All parties admit that it is impossible to quantify the impact of a campaign in terms of sales, but agree that a good one does get customers into the stores. Given that MaxMara has 800 of the latter, and a turnover of $1 billion to maintain, it's not difficult to see why the stakes are so high.

No wonder that there was a studious air of concentration on Steven Meisel's set during his three-day MaxMara extravaganza. As Giorgio Guidotti says: "You can rehearse all you like, but even £30,000 a day doesn't always ensure that the model won't miss her flight."

EMMA HOPE
Shoe designer

STYLE FILE by Deborah Brett

Describe your style.
Currently, dark pinstripe jackets with a white T-shirt, navy trousers, glitter cardigans and skirts from "dressing-up box shops".

What do you think of the current fashion trends?
I like skinny, sweeping trousers and Voyage's turquoise, sparkly, leopard-print devoré dresses. And I love next spring's coral and aqua colours.

What period in fashion do you love?
The Thirties and Forties — Marlene Dietrich and Carole Lombard. I love the blonde hair, the trousers, the inquiring eyebrows.

When do you go shopping?
When it all gets too much.

What are your pet hates in the world of fashion?
It is unnecessary to criticise anyone, however annoying their stuff is, if they are trying to be creative.

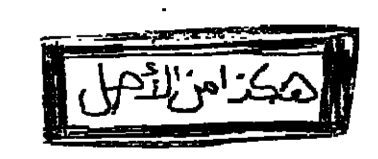
What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought?
My horse, Flash, redeemed by the grazing package of £8 a week, but that doesn't include worming.

What accessory can you not live without?
My Mont Blanc pen. If there was a fire, I'd be sad if I couldn't find Cracky the dog.

Where do you like to shop?
I love Peter Jones because it is so calm, and the razzmatazz of Westbourne Grove. I also like any shop that sells old clothes and handbags.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift?
Little dangly aquamarine earrings from Dinny Hall.

What is your style motto?
If in any doubt, buy both.

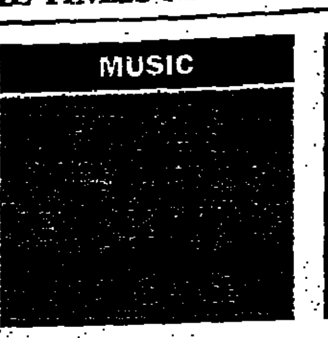




DANCE

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC





Wrong turning on the South Bank

The latest 'masterplan' for London's biggest arts centre is an extravagant mistake, says Marcus Binney

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA
Waterloo Station
IMAX cinema
Shell Centre
County Hall
Belvedere Walkway removed; new public square
Relandscaped Jubilee Gardens
Potential new concert halls and Hayward Gallery
Big Wheel and Waterloo Pier
Potential redevelopment of Hayward Gallery and QEH site
Arches below bridge opened up
Restoration of Royal Festival Hall
Area below bridge opened up
Potential relocation of NFT, MOMI and BFI and redevelopment of this site
Pedestrian access over Hungerford Bridge
Waterloo Bridge

For the third time the *South Bank Centre* has got it wrong. The *latest plans* have been described as visionary. But once again the prospect of large sums of cash, whether from the lottery or property development, has destructively distorted what remains an essential mission: humanising the concrete wilderness of the nation's No 1 arts centre.

Last year the £150 million Richard Rogers scheme for the South Bank crashed because the Arts Council could not find the money for the proposals of its own former deputy chairman. Over the years that the scheme was under discussion, repeated calls had been made for the South Bank to slim it down, or bring it forward in phases, but the centre's management would not listen.

> ‘The centre needs this plan like a hole in the head’

It is time for a little history. The original Terry Farrell masterplan was costed at just £15 million, and achieved what was needed on a self-financing basis. It demolished the hated overhead walkways and brought the place alive with shops, bars and restaurants. For just £5 million (included in the price) the great engineer Peter Rice was going to cast a stretch fabric roof over these 1960s concert halls and galleries, bringing the roof terraces into use — part indoors, part outdoors.

Things went wrong when, in the giddy property market of the Eighties, this grew (under the developer Stuart Lipton) into a £100 million scheme that crashed with the recession. "I began with a light touch and a low budget, and ended up doing a Broadgate," says Farrell wistfully.

Then came the Rogers scheme. In his conception, the commercial elements were first removed and then brought back to provide revenue funding for the hugely increased running costs of a much larger centre.

The current scheme, by Elliot Bernerd, the South Bank Centre's new chairman, has two plus points. First, he proposes to reopen the river promenade from County Hall to the National Theatre by unblocking the arches beneath Hungerford Railway Bridge and Waterloo Bridge. Secondly, he wants to introduce a popular element, with a much stronger cinema presence. This will consist of a multi-screen commercial cinema, a new National Library of Film and TV and a more prominent National Film Theatre moved up from below Waterloo Bridge.

Film is one of the quiet successes of the South Bank. MOMI (Museum of the Moving Image) now has 350,000 visitors a year and urgently needs more space. The British Film Institute wants to move its whole operation to the South Bank, where its lottery-funded IMAX cinema is nearing completion in the centre of Waterloo roundabout. (Let's leave aside the question of why public money is needed for an IMAX, when there is a commercially funded one in the Trocadero.)

Bernerd offers two options for his "cine city": either to build on the so-called Hungerford car park site next to Jubilee Gardens, or to demolish the Hayward, the Purcell Room and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, unblocking what he calls "a concrete plug" in the middle of the site. In their place, Bernerd offers two new concert halls and a new gallery on the Hungerford car park site. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has added his support to this idea. "Goodness, London has not had a new concert hall for more than a decade," he says.

Yet can anyone seriously justify the demolition of expensive arts facilities that are just 30 years old? If lottery millions were not available, no one would even be thinking of it. The South Bank says glibly: "We have a huge affection for the buildings." But the spokesman adds airily: "New building materials and construction techniques may well make it cheaper to build new concert halls and galleries."

The reason for even thinking about such extravagance is that, according to the South Bank, the Arts Council lottery fund has "earmarked £25 million for us" — in the form of a nod and a wink at a press conference, no less. Add to this the millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn's generous offer of £17 million and it is clear that the South Bank management thinks that well over £40 million is already in the kitty.

Many people hate the exposed concrete of the South Bank's buildings. But now Brutalism, like much 1960s design, is in fashion. The Twentieth Century Society and Modernists will fight hard for these buildings.

The QEH is highly valued for its acoustic, and is the preferred venue for a whole range of chamber orchestras. The Hayward Gallery is enjoying a renaissance under its new director, and has always been an exciting exhibition space for designers willing to work hard on the installations.

The South Bank also glosses over the potential controversy of building on the Hungerford car park. Locals feel strongly that it should be incorporated into Jubilee Gardens as green space. "Improving the quality of open space will be a key priority," says the South Bank, dodging the question of whether it will be grass or paving.

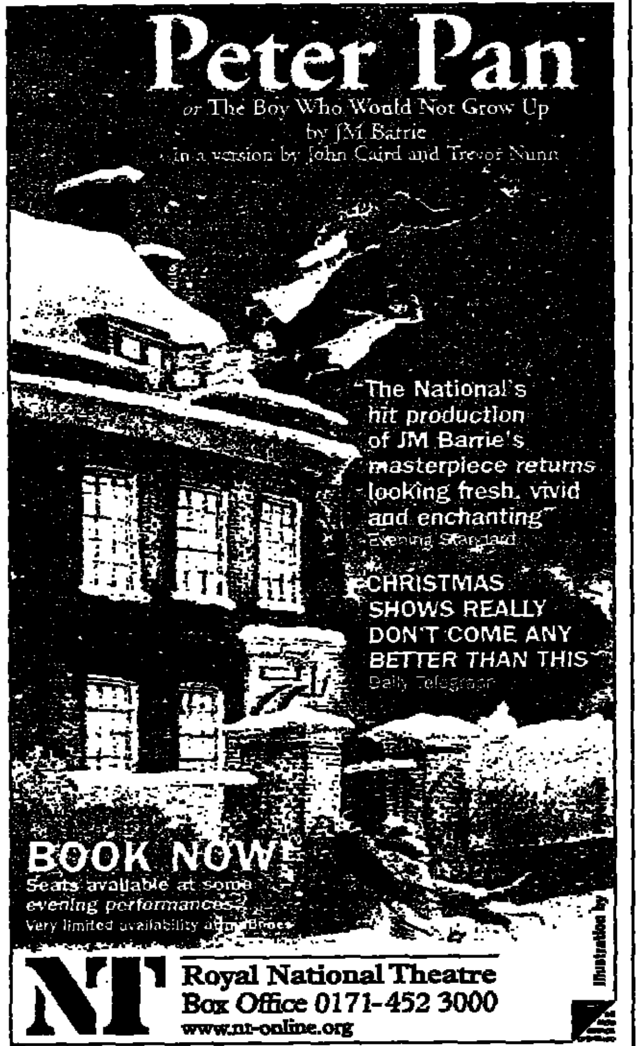
The other big change is that the massive Shell Centre, which for years has been so much dead space on the way from Waterloo station, is now available for public use. Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, says: "Our current plans are to create a mixture of retail, residential and leisure uses which could include a fitness centre and cinemas."

Cinemas? If Shell is providing cinemas, why does Bernerd *have to demolish* the Hayward or blot out the Hungerford *site to offer the same* thing? Perhaps the BFI might even find a cubbyhole in the 26 storeys of the Shell Centre.

According to Shell's own company history, its mighty 1950s headquarters came with "a general store and a shooting range ... leisure and health facilities for staff — reception rooms large and small, exhibition areas, a theatre and a cinema, a gymnasium, squash courts, a sports hall and a swimming pool just short of Olympic size."

Deep underground was secure parking for 453 cars as well as office accommodation for 5,000 people. Part of the *Shell Centre is already being* marketed as apartments, but a *vast quantity of space remains* which could rapidly be *brought into* use.

The South Bank is about to set off on yet another "masterplan". It needs one like a hole in the head. Farrell's original plan, combined with a policy of "make do and mend", would achieve far more, far more quickly, and substantially eliminate the need for lottery funding.



DANCE: Christopher Bowen finds plenty of festive treats in Paris, even if they don't come in the usual wrapping

Anyone for sugar plum? Non!

The French "have no idea how to celebrate the festive season", sniffed a balletomane acquaintance when I mentioned the prospect of spending the holiday in Paris checking out the dance scene.

Well, I suppose if your idea of Christmas ballet programming begins and ends with *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* or one of the picturebook romps routinely rolled out for family consumption at this time of year, then to suggest an alternative must seem akin to sacrilege. But salvation is at hand for those more than a little weary of Snow Flake Fairies and pumpkin coaches: however, you will have to go to Paris to find it.

It's worth the trip. Last Christmas dance fans in the French capital could choose between Merce Cunningham at the Opera Garnier, and Paris Opera Ballet's full-length *Raymonda* at the Bastille. This year the choices have been even more seductive with (in a one-week period) Nederlands Dans Theatre at the Garnier, the designer-chic Butoh of Sankai Juku at Théâtre de la Ville, the Junior Ballet of the Conservatoire de Paris sharing their stage with Israel's Ensemble Batsheva, and the Paris Opera Ballet performing Nureyev's versions of *La Bayadère* and *Don Quichotte*.

There's not a Sugar Plum in sight. Not that the dance on offer isn't festive. Indeed, apart from the exotic glories of *La Bayadère* and the garlic-infused *festa* that is *Don Quichotte* (but more of them later), the Junior Ballet produced a programme that positively radiated good cheer.

Most of this, it has to be said, was generated by the dancers themselves rather than the choreography. But these young dancers are exceptional technicians, and the way they collectively submerge themselves in the styles of disparate choreographers is impressive indeed. They look especially good in extracts from Ohad Naharin's *Part, Dance* and *Zachacha* — which they performed alongside Naharin's own "junior" Batsheva Ensemble — ripping through rubbery, loose-limbed step combinations with undisguised glee.

No doubt many of these apprentice dancers would look towards Nederlands Dans Theatre, rather than Paris Opera Ballet, as their career goal. And in Jiri Kylián's full-length *One of a Kind* it is possible to see just how far this marriage of classical training and modern dance idioms has been pushed. Kylián long ago moved beyond the surging flow of movement that so distinguished his early Romantic works like *Sinfonietta*; today his ballets are darker, the vocabulary more fractured. In many of his recent pieces Kylián has given the impression of a restless soul in search of something. In *One of a Kind* I think he may have found it. Set to live and recorded music by Brett Dean (which samples a clutch of composers, Britten and Cage among them) and placed within a series of beautiful structures by the Japanese architect Atsushi Kitagawara, *One of a Kind* showcases the individuality of NDT's remarkable dancers.

It is a piece packed with superb examples of athletic Kyliánesque virtuosity and exquisite doublework (these dancers appear to play each other like musical instruments), but there is a purity here that sets the piece apart. This is dance stripped to the bone, clean and clear and beautiful.

Not that laying on the ornamentation with a trowel is a bad thing. Look at Nureyev's productions of *Don Quichotte* and *La Bayadère* for Paris Opera Ballet. The richness of these stagings is remarkable to behold, whether in the detailed mime business for the tavern crowds in Cervantes's boisterous tale, or the breathtaking sumptuousness of Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squarciapino's designs for *La Bayadère*. Underpinning it all — as one would expect from this company — is dancing to die for with a sensitivity to every nuance of style few ballet ensembles can match; in the old Don's vision scene, the Dryads dance with majestic splendour, while the Opera Ballet's 32 Bayadères unfold their famously sustained arabesques into a snaking line of shimmering perfection.

Nor are the characters in these ballets merely ciphers for the dance: at the heart of *Don Quichotte*, Kitri and Basilio are brought vividly to life by Agnès Letestu and José Martinez, their deliciously long limbs carving up the air as they flirt and fight like any passionate Latin couple (Letestu's tomboyish interpretation is a particular delight). Of the two casts I saw in *La Bayadère*, it is Isabelle Guérin's Nikiya and Laurent Hilaire's Solor that appear to transcend technique with the effortless poetry of their dancing, though Elizabeth Maurin and Kader Belarbi make a beautifully romantic couple.

The French don't know how to celebrate the festive season? The sight of Laurent Hilaire reclining atop a Rococo elephant in *La Bayadère* is surely festive enough for most folks.

A bit of a treat for the cliché queen

THEATRE: Glaswegian Liz Lochhead talks to **Daniel Rosenthal** about her hit play *Perfect Days*



DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Liz Lochhead at the Hampstead Theatre, where her Edinburgh Fringe hit arrives this week; she is also writing the screenplay

Two of 1998's most memorable fictional female characters had much in common: both single, successful career women with disastrous love lives, both deafened by the ticking of their biological clocks. On Channel 4, Ally McBeal's legal progress in Boston was disturbed by her hallucinatory dancing baby. The Edinburgh Fringe offered Barbs Marshall, celebrity hairdresser heroine of Liz Lochhead's play *Perfect Days*, who *takes a more active approach* to maternity, with a spot of DIY artificial insemination.

"That bloody *Ally McBeal* started just when I handed in the first draft of *Perfect Days*," says Lochhead. Her fear that McBeal might somehow have stolen Barbs's thunder by the time the play opened at the Traverse last August proved groundless. The lawyer's self-absorption made her a figure women love to hate, while critics and audiences were delighted and moved by Barbs's bid for motherhood.

Having reinforced Lochhead's reputation as one of Scotland's most popular playwright/poets, the Traverse production is being revived at the Hampstead Theatre in London this week. Siobhan Redmond, for whom the lead role was written, again plays Barbs, the star of TV's *Morningtime Makeover*, who, at 39, is suddenly "ravenous" for a baby. Far removed from the verse and stylised pageantry of Lochhead's best-known play, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, *Perfect Days* is more sitcom than Gothic horror. She calls it "a sad farce".

"I really wanted to write about what it's like for a woman to hit 40 — though because I'm slow this didn't occur to me until I was about to hit 50," she says. "Maternity separates the girls from the women. If you are single, solvent and childless in your late thirties, you're still a bit of a kid.

> 'If you are single, solvent and childless in your late thirties, you're still a bit of a kid'

"Despite being a feminist, and believing in equality for men and women, I'm interested as a writer in how the sexes differ. Maternity is, of course, the biggest difference of all." Married to a Glasgow architect since her late thirties, Lochhead has no children, and insists that *Perfect Days* carries no hint of autobiographical regret. "I don't share Barbs's obsession. Not having children is not one of the big sadnesses of my life — though it might become one when I'm 70 and nobody likes me."

Set in Barbs's Glasgow flat, *Perfect Days* unfolds as she meets her best friend, her mother, her new lover, her ex-husband and, most importantly, fellow hairdresser Brendan: loyal, gay and an eager semen donor. The bridges between scenes are filled with snatches of songs by artists like Dusty Springfield and Dr Hook: the lyrics are as clichéd as could be, and Lochhead uses them unashamedly to reflect Barbs's mood. "I've never been afraid of clichés, because they deal with powerful, universal questions. Cliché snobs won't like this play, but f*** them."

Lochhead's private passion for old, romantic tunes equals Barbs's; playwright and character also share outsize personalities. Lochhead is gloriously talkative (she apologises for "blathering on") and, like Barbs, laughs frequently at her own expense. Her ear for dialogue makes *Perfect Days* vibrate with the rhythms of contemporary Glaswegian speech, and she roots the characters in the city she has called home as art student, secondary school art teacher and, for the past 20 years, professional poet and dramatist.

After a year in which Ken Loach's *My Name is Joe*, the BBC's *Looking After Jo-Jo* and re-runs of *Taggart* have reinforced Glasgow's screen image as a haven for thugs and addicts, Lochhead refreshingly delivers a tale in which the only violence is emotional and the only drug on display is a precoital joint.

"I may have been unconsciously reacting against all those gritty dramas," she says. "Why should there be only one kind of Glasgow story? I like the city's brash, entrepreneurial side and Barbs represents that." The contrast between Glasgow's hard-bitten reputation and *Perfect Days*' comparatively soft centre is beautifully picked out by the mock-gangland name of Barbs's hair salon: Razor City.

There is further irony in the play's burgeoning popularity. Lochhead only had Scottish audiences in her sights and thought the play "wouldn't travel", yet *Perfect Days* is on course for greater international exposure than any of her previous work. Hector Babenco, director of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, is preparing to stage it in Brazil, and there are *plans for productions in Finland*, Israel and Germany. Lochhead loves the idea of translators adding local colour to the script to make Barbs a resident of Rio, Tel Aviv or Munich.

Barbs is also heading for cinemas. Paul Webster, head of Channel Four Films, bought the screen rights after seeing *Perfect Days* in Edinburgh, and Lochhead was planning to deliver the first draft of her screenplay this week. She has felt "heartbroken" when other screen projects have fallen through, but this one seems certain to be produced, *probably with Redmond in the lead.*

The financial rewards of all this seem not to bother her: "With no kids and a husband who earns his living, I don't need much money." In any case, the bulk of her earnings come not from theatre, but as "a performing poet and teacher" who travels around England and Scotland giving more than 100 readings a year (some of her finest poems feature Barbs-like voices musing on broken relationships).

Far more important than money has been the return of her zest for her craft. "During the five years before *Perfect Days*, writing was always a struggle. I decided that because I was 50 I would give myself a treat: stop writing films that never happen, and spend a year on a play." That play, designed for one actress and one audience, has placed Lochhead on the verge of a commercial breakthrough. "It just shows," she says, "what can happen when you decide to enjoy yourself."

● Perfect Days *is at the Hampstead Theatre, NW1, from Wednesday to Jan 30 (0171-722 9301) and tours Scotland Feb 16-March 27*

This week in THE TIMES

■ CIRCUS

Cirque du Soleil returns to the Albert Hall with its compelling show *Alegria*

OPENS: Tomorrow

REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

Antony Sher takes centre stage in the RSC's *The Winter's Tale* in Stratford

OPENS: Wednesday

REVIEW: Friday



■ MUSIC

The Nash Ensemble celebrates Poulenc's centenary at the Wigmore

CONCERT: Thursday

REVIEW: Next week

■ FILM

A fresh stab at it: Anne Heche stars in the remake of Hitchcock's *Psycho*

RELEASED: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Joseph Nadj Company opens the London Mime Festival on Saturday

Fond memories of old Vienna

CONCERTS

New Year's Day
Wigmore Hall

Over on television, there was Lorin Maazel, dressed like the father of the bride, escorting the Vienna Philharmonic through the traditional New Year's Day concert. At the Festival Hall, a pick-up band shared the stage with dancers in period costumes, twirling to Strauss family lollipops. But here at the Wigmore Hall, we had something special: the Johann Strauss Ensemble of Austria, 16-strong, conducted from the violin by a two-year-old.

"Born in Tokyo in 1996," the programme note read, "Joji Hattori is now in the forefront of the young generation of Japanese musicians." Ah, those Japanese prodigies! It was a misprint, of course; though at 29, Hattori, who was raised in Vienna, still has youthful ebullience in spades. During the interval he took off his waistcoat, leaving extra room round the chest and armpits for waving at the group with his bow or pleading sweetly as solo violinist in Lanner's wistful *Die Romantiker*, scored for string quintet.

The chamber sound was another of the evening's surprises. Not every instrument was perfectly blended: the double-bass at times behaved like a sore thumb. But after endless renditions by full, gleaming orchestras, how refreshing to hear *The Blue Danube*, *An Artist's Life* and others shaped to the dimensions of the cafés and dance halls where the Strauss family mostly performed. The pictorial effects in Strauss Jr's orchestrations emerged with extra clarity: thunder and lightning erupting on drum roll and cymbal, cuckoo calls on the ocarina, cradled at all times by strings, brass and woodwind. (The players hail from the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz, but they know all about well-judged rubato and the Viennese lilt.)

The repertoire had its novelties, too. With its peasant swirl and oom-pa-pa accompaniment, Strauss senior's *Suspension Bridge Waltz* was a useful reminder of the waltz's rustic roots. Josef Strauss, Strauss Jr's younger brother, was showcased with *Frauenherz*, a tender waltz that lay upon the ears like a cat curled on your lap. The one jarring item was *Waltz for Camille*, commissioned from Rob Lane, and inspired by the life of sculptress Camille Claudel. Who wants to start the year listening to anguish in three-quarter time?

GEOFF BROWN

Purcell heralds the new

King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

THREE hours before midnight on New Year's Eve, and the pealing had begun: not in the tongues of bells, but in the voices of the King's Consort as they swung rhythm across rhythm, word against word in a joyful reprise of the final chorus of Henry Purcell's *Welcome, welcome glorious morn*.

This was the third of six Birthday Odes that Purcell wrote for Queen Mary between 1689 and 1694. Each one celebrates yet another new year of her reign, in florid and obsequious imagery of spring and of dawn, of hovering Cupids and ringing Spheres with music to match.

The King's Consort, which knows Purcell inside out and has secured this new year slot for itself in successive years, is aptly Janus-faced in its casting. There is an invigorating sense of continuum in concerts in which the seemingly eternal artistry of James Bowman ballasts the bright youthfulness of a singer like the soprano Carolyn Sampson.

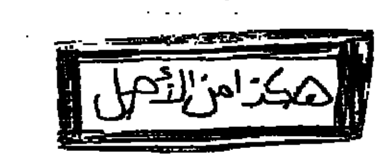
And so it was in this 1691 Ode, as Bowman duetted in subtly matched tones with the bass Peter Harvey to hymn the love between "Three happy Kingdoms", before Sampson's soprano incarnated the brightness of the gods' blessing on fair Albion. Robert King goes at Purcell with a will: his own harpsichord and a pair of oboes had lustily imitated the trumpets' robust opening to the Ode, and his company of singers had dropped musical echoes like depth charges as they followed in Sampson's wake.

In the first half of the evening, the trumpets of Crispian Steele-Perkins and David Blackadder had led the way in the more stately ceremonial of the 1693 Ode, *Celebrate the Festival*. And when Sampson begged them to cease they refused, silenced only by the repeated imprecations of the chorus.

The enduring richness and flexibility of Bowman's counter-tenor created a warm wave of phrasing as April clapped her sable wing. Harvey's bass set up the heroic battle cry; and the haunting high tenor of Rogers Covey-Crump re-established peace over a sweet trio of recorders and viola supported by murmuring theorbo and chamber organ.

The Consort's instrumental palette was best displayed in the theatre music by Purcell that introduced each Ode: first a playfully insistent ground-bass Curtain Tune to *Timon of Athens*, and later a suite from *Dioclesian*, its pungent harmonies drawn out by deft bowing, and the adrenalin surging in every upbeat.

HILARY FINCH



Coward, back in the midday sun

The Master's voice still has a unique relevance, says **Derwent May**

Some years ago, my wife and I were at Covent Garden when we noticed Noël Coward in the Crush Bar. We were watching Joan Sutherland in *La Fille du Regiment*, where, in fine swashbuckling style, she was singing Marie, the camp-follower who turns out to be the daughter of a great lady.

After the interval we saw Coward again, sitting alone in the row ahead of us. By now Marie was singing a song in her mother's drawing room. Her suspicious chaperone asked her what she was singing. "C'est un petit chanson de Noël Coward," Sutherland shot back.

Most of the audience probably did not notice, and of those who did, most must have been puzzled. But those who had spotted Coward greatly savoured this compliment thrown down to him in the stalls by one of his best friends — and one of the rare divas who would have been prepared to do it.

This year will be the centenary of Coward's birth in Teddington. 1999 will see many revivals of his plays and shows, notably on television and radio, and we shall have a chance to judge how many of them still work. Bernard Shaw considered Coward his equal as a playwright, and some critics regard his plays as the best light comedies of the century. But for me Joan Sutherland got it right. It is those petits chansons of his that live.

> It is in the petits chansons that his genius lives

He wrote them all his life, starting as a child. He said that the false rhyme of "Little Tommy *Tucker*/ Sings for his *supper*" rasped his sensibilities when he was still in infants' school. He poured songs out for his Cochrane revues, his musicals, his wartime tours to the Forces abroad and the last brilliant phase in his career when he was doing cabaret at the Café de Paris in the Fifties. Many of them were too slight to survive — but some are lyrical or comic masterpieces.

The earliest to make a mark were his prewar love songs, such as *The Party's Over Now*. Like many of his love songs it is full of a strange, teasing ambiguity:

The party's over now,
The dawn is drawing nigh,
The candles gutter,
The starlight leaves the sky.
It's time for little boys and girls
To hurry home to bed,
For there's a new day waiting just ahead.

Is it sad that the party's over? Or was there something faintly wrong about it all? Is it bad or good news that there's a new day waiting just ahead? There is a hint here of the same tender moralising that we find in another famous Thirties song of his, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, with its witty, admonitory half-rhyme in its last line: "Poor little rich girl — don't drop a stitch too soon."

As for the more personal love songs that he went on writing all his life, they can be full of haunting intertwinings of happiness and bleakness. *I travel alone* boasts that "No remembered love can ever find me", and that "there's one illusion left to me, and that's the happiness I've known alone". (Even that, note, is an illusion.)

But some of the love songs are also among his most comic, highlighting his griefs by setting them against other considerations — such as *Any little fish can swim:*

Any little dog and any little cat
Can do a bit of this and then a bit of that,
Any little horse can neigh, and any little cow moo —
But I can't do anything at all but just love you.

Here the litany of carefree animal behaviour goes on getting more absurdly lewd from verse to verse.

How far these songs can work their magic when sung by other people is another thing we shall presumably find out next year. Coward felt his way into them completely from the inside, usually starting with a line of melody and letting the words shape themselves round it; he could hardly write or read music. And his singing wonderfully drags out or hastens out the rhythm for evocative or funny effect, hinting all the time at what is left unsaid.

Above all, of course, there was that strange voice of his, coming far from the back of his throat, as though he was letting us in on some secret buried deep in his heart, but combined with rolling "r"s that gave you the option of thinking he was just a cheeky chappie. Teasing ambiguity again.

If his love songs made him the match (and the friend) of Cole Porter, his witty songs of society made him the match (and the friend) of John Betjeman. And perhaps it is these I really love best. He anticipated *Dad's Army* long before with his "Colonel Montmorency who/Was in Calcutta in '92" paving the way for Captain Mainwaring. Best of all is Coward's great comic vision of disaster, *Bad times are just around the corner*, with Britain in chaos and despair:

From Colwyn Bay to Kettering
They're sobbing themselves to sleep.
The shrieks and wails
In the Yorkshire Dales
Have even depressed the sheep.
In rather vulgar lettering
A very disgruntled group
Has posted bills
On the Cotswold Hills
To prove that we're in the soup.
Hurray-hurray-hurray!
Suffering and dismay!

To cheer ourselves up as recession looms, it a song to rush out and bring home.

Peter Mandelson was doing nothing new — and his sacrifice leaves Blair exposed and vulnerable

The noble tradition of British risk-takers

William Rees-Mogg

When Harold Wilson resigned as Prime Minister, I was in Washington; when Peter Mandelson resigned from the Cabinet, I was in Paris. I seem to be unlucky in missing these important events. Yet, perhaps it is not such bad luck. If I had had to write on the Mandelson resignation the next day, I might well have joined the grave moralists and shared their horror that a man could borrow money from a friend to buy a house. I am certainly no Mandy crony; I have only talked to him twice, once at a Ditchley conference and once at a dinner party of Carla Powell's.

Peter Mandelson remembers against me that I once compared him to Goebbels; I thought I had only compared him to Machiavelli. I was criticising him for the exaggerated Labour propaganda against Tory sleaze, much of which was trivia. I did not intend to imply that he was a Nazi, which plainly he is not, but that he was a ruthless propagandist, which he is. If I have been around on the day he fell, I might easily have written a solemn piece, arguing that those who live by the sword, die by the sword, and so on.

It was the memory of Burke and Disraeli which made me reconsider the position. I suppose one could call them the master spin-doctors of the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1768, Edmund Burke bought Gregories, a good house with 600 acres, near Beaconsfield. Some of the £20,000 cost was raised on mortgage; some was probably lent by his party leader, Lord Rockingham; £1,000 may have come from David Garrick; perhaps £6,000 came from Lord Verney, though Burke denied it; some probably came from speculating in East India Company stock. The financing of the purchase was something of a scandal.

Benjamin Disraeli bought his nearby estate of Hughenden in rather similar circumstances. Harold Macmillan told his biographer, George Hutchinson, the story in his racy style. "Shortly before Disraeli became leader of the party, the old Duke (of Portland)'s sons, Lord George Bentinck and Lord Henry Bentinck, came to him and said: 'Father, there is only one man who can lead the Tory party — and he is a fancy little Jew.' 'Only a country gentleman can lead the Tory party,' said the Duke. 'We'll make him one,' said the sons. Straightaway, they bought Hughenden for Disraeli." Leaving aside the 19th-century anti-Semitism, the story is still embarrassing.

What was good enough for Burke and Disraeli, one might think would have been good enough for Mandelson. And did not Winston Churchill himself have some help from his friends in the purchase of Chartwell? And why not? If one looks back on the great men of modern British history, only those, such as Peel and Gladstone, who were born rich — and not all of them — seemed to have avoided financial embarrassment. Walpole was corrupt; Chatham built houses on money borrowed from his in-laws; Pitt the Younger was always on the edge of insolvency; Fox was a gambler and a spendthrift; even Salisbury needed a £5,000 loan from his father in 1866 after the Overend and Gurney crash; Lloyd George went through the Marconi scandal and sold peerages.

No Walpole, no Chatham, no Burke, no Fox, no Pitt, no Disraeli, perhaps no Salisbury, no Lloyd George, no Churchill — that would have made quite a difference to British history. It would have meant no British Empire, and that we would probably have lost the Seven Years War to Louis XV, the Napoleonic War to Napoleon, the First World War to Kaiser Wilhelm and the Second World War to Hitler. A careful examination of the finances of these historic statesmen shows a recklessness in each case which could have been as embarrassing as Peter Mandelson's, and in some cases conduct far worse than that.

Modern British party politics were almost invented in the reign of Charles II by Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 1st Earl of Shaftesbury. Dryden described him in the character of Achitophel. "A daring pilot in extremity; Pleas'd with the danger, when the waves went high, He sought the storms; but for a calm unfit, Would steer too nigh the sands to boast his wit."

The great politicians who changed the world have to be risk-takers; they often have a manic energy. They can be tempted to a lifestyle they cannot afford, just as great entrepreneurs take financial risks in building their business empire. So long as they behave legally, politicians should not be made to resign for buying houses they cannot afford or for borrowing from their friends.

Tony Blair was wrong to request or accept Peter Mandelson's resignation. He did not allow enough for human nature. He was not loyal enough. That mistake may well destroy the Blair project. A year or two before he died, I remember lunching with Hugh Gaitskell, an earlier Labour leader who wanted to reform his party. He told me, almost with despair, that his reform would have been possible if only he had had the reliable support of a single senior colleague; he could not trust Harold Wilson, or George Brown, or any of the other Labour leaders of real weight. This terrible isolation has now descended on Tony Blair. Gordon Brown and John Prescott are conspiring against him; Jack Straw is an ally, but is also an obvious candidate for the succession.

Tony Blair seems to have lost control of the Government; it even seems that he cannot get rid of Charles Whelan, though he cannot afford not to. Yet, it is almost certain that Mr Mandelson's resignation was not an unfortunate accident, but a deliberate assassination. Somebody gave the story of the Robinson loan to Paul Routledge; Paul is an excellent journalist, but he was not given the story because of that. He was given it by somebody who wanted to destroy Mandelson and damage Blair. Paul will never reveal his source, but everyone knows he has excellent contacts in the Gordon Brown camp.

In some ways, Mr Mandelson was the ablest member of the Labour Cabinet; he was a major architect of new Labour. Without him, the project would never have had such an extraordinary triumph. He has left just at the point when the project is about to be tested by events and by the elections, Europe, Scotland, Wales and local government. Inside the Labour Party, the resistance to Blairism was already growing; it is still emotionally a party of the Left.

Mr Mandelson's resignation suggests that Mr Blair may be too weak to be a successful Prime Minister. Viscount Cranborne laid a trap for William Hague and Hague fired him. Gordon Brown (or his friends) laid a trap for Tony Blair, and Blair fired Mandelson. Hague knows how a leader has to behave if his authority is to survive a crisis; Tony Blair got that wrong. At the moment of decision, he flinched; that usually proves fatal. When King Charles I signed Strafford's death warrant, he was also signing his own. No Prime Minister can afford to butcher his friends in order to appease his enemies.

Year of the constitution

Labour has not addressed the central dilemma of government, says **Tim Hames**



Very few safe predictions can be made about politics in the 12 months ahead, but one of the better prospects is that the debate about the constitution will become more intense. Elections and their aftermath in Scotland and Wales, the formation (one hopes) of a viable devolved executive in Northern Ireland, the first stage of Lords reform, preparations for the introduction of the Human Rights Bill incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights, legislation for a mayor of London — all present an enormous agenda. And all that without the small matter of the euro, which will have constitutional consequences for us whether we participate or not.

This avalanche of activity will be opposed outright by the Conservative Party. The Tories have already accused Tony Blair of "constitutional vandalism" and deployed the old dictum of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". More subtle members of the Shadow Cabinet have taken a different tack and argued instead for an "evolutionary, rather than revolutionary" approach to reform. These are positions with which the public may come to sympathise, particularly if the Scottish vote suggests that devolution is but a pitstop to an acrimonious divorce between England and Scotland.

They are not, though, particularly persuasive. Labour inherited a constitution that was broken and did require fixing. During two decades of Tory rule the old order had been transformed by the Single European Act and the Maastricht treaty, and local government was marginalised by a Whitehall machine under the complete occupation of the Treasury. The same cult of centralisation had spawned side-effects as diverse as renewed Scottish nationalism and a more radicalised judiciary. And, just at the moment when many thought that a confident, challenging second chamber was becoming more necessary, the House of Lords appeared more anachronistic than ever.

The Government was, therefore, right to recognise that constitutional renewal was a compelling priority. However, change through "evolutionary reform" is unlikely to be enough. As in biology, a new order is often achieved through quite sudden distinctive bursts, usually brought on by some outside shock, before returning to a relatively settled situation.

That has been the story of the British constitution through the centuries. Several periods of upheaval — Magna Carta, the Reformation, the Civil War, the Glorious Revolution, the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and the epic struggle between the Commons and the Lords that culminated with the Parliament Act of 1911 — were followed by calm.

Those who implemented change were invariably accused of operating without much thought for longer-term consequences. The accusations were almost always true — but the British tradition of ad hoc answers and muddling through becomes quite appealing when compared with the continental tradition of constitutional reform through coup, revolt, revolution or conquest.

The most powerful charge against this Government is that is has never stated coherently what it considers to be the problems for which it is seeking solutions. This is, in truth, because an honest collection of answers would not be especially attractive to many in the Cabinet. The real source of constitutional instability over the past 25 years has been a three-pronged process of centralisation: of power within Whitehall itself favouring the inner executive and not Cabinet, Parliament or citizen; of local political and financial autonomy being lost to Whitehall; and of vast portions of policy being removed from British institutions and handed to European bodies that are inimical to our traditions.

The Government is responding only partially to this need for change. The setting up of a Scottish parliament acknowledges the sense of alienation north of the border, but its limited tax-raising powers suggest decentralised administration, rather than delegated authority. Present proposals also fail to appreciate that the residents of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle feel at least as dominated and patronised by London as the Scots or Welsh. No constitutional solution can succeed if it fails to appreciate that decentralisation within England is an enormous part of the equation. Regional assemblies are not the answer.

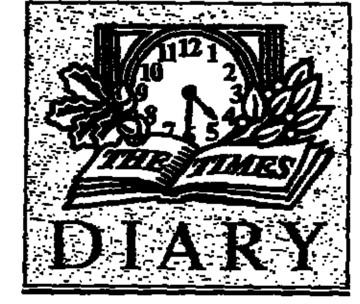
The Government has rightly addressed Lords reform — but in a manner that implies that it is more worried about the numbers of toffs and Tories ensconced there than by the need for stronger checks and balances over the executive.

Lords reform has also proceeded apace with little linkage to the lamentable state of the Commons. The Human Rights Bill has been enacted without reference to the appointments system for senior judges, or, as the Hoffmann case exposed, the need for formal rules governing their conduct. Not only has the Government failed to align an instinct for constitutional change at home with its European policy but it has adopted the incredible notion that there are no significant constitutional implications in the decision whether or not to join EMU.

The missing position in British politics is for a party willing to combine a serious commitment to substantial constitutional reform — restoring checks and balances on the executive and substantial decentralisation within the whole country — with an advanced scepticism about the entire direction of the European adventure. The Liberal Democrats' approach to constitutional change is not aimed at rebalancing the British tradition, but is instead an attempt to make it easier for the UK to integrate within the EU. The Labour Party seems unsure about which way it wants to travel and may end up emulating Paddy Ashdown's party.

In theory, the Tories, if they recaptured a sense of their own history and stopped worshipping at the altar of Treasury control, could seize the initiative. Unfortunately, one of the other safer predictions for 1999 is that they are most unlikely to do so.

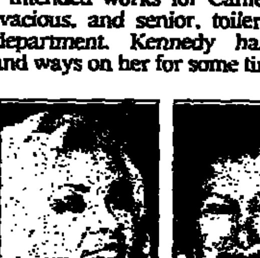
Could be Yule



AT LAST, one of Parliament's most dedicated bachelors is to throw away his little black book. I gather that the puppyish Charles Kennedy, darling of the nut-roast matrons of the Liberal Democrats, is to marry. And this time his number is certainly up: his intended works for Camelot, the lottery outfit. Sarah Gurling is a vivacious, and senior, toiler in the company's government relations department. Kennedy has been deploying his jowly charm and Highland ways on her for some time. The cheery couple are a familiar sight in the Commons Strangers Bar. He is believed to have asked Sarah during a Christmas break at his croft in Fort William.

"They expect to make a formal announcement later this year," confides a friend. But I am sure Charles will forgive my haste in breaking the good news. His friends say his intentions were clarified when he was best man for Malcom Bruce, his colleague, last May. "The look in his eye said 'It could be you'," recalls the friend.

Less romantic souls will also note that the union will assist Kennedy if he challenges for the party leadership. I have one reservation: will Charles have to declare an interest when he speaks on the lottery after the wedding?



● *WHO is the female companion lorry drivers would most like to share their cab with on the long and lonely night of the millennium: Melinda Messenger (above left)? Sam Fox? Or even Relatively Posh Spice, for the more aspirant trucker? Nope. The Princess Royal, who once expressed regrets that she had not pursued a career as a lorry driver. An imaginative choice, I grant you, but perhaps a little more varied that opening village fêtes. A spoke at the Road Haulage Association, which conducted a nationwide poll, welcomes the choice: "She works hard and best of all, she knows how to handle a truck. A logical choice."*

Scotched

COLOMBIAN drug smugglers have turned their hand to Scotch whisky. British Customs officers are advising the Colombian Government on how to stem the illegal spirits flooding into their country. It seems that moustachioed types do more than just shower these shores with white, powdery substances — while they are over here they pick up a few fine malts and smuggle them back home.

Such treats are in demand — 87 per cent of the whisky drunk in the country is imported illegally, most of it Caledonian, in a black-market trade that is worth £37 million a year to my volatile friends. "We are talking to their Government to devise ways to stop it," gurgles a thirsty sniffer dog.

● *FEBRUARY should see the crowning of a new Princess of Wales. Mary Winbury, the BBC's head of public affairs, is to marry Taliesin Michael, Alun Michael's boy, at Cardiff Castle, a week after the February election to decide who is to be the First Minister of Wales. If Michael becomes King, Wales will see the emergence of a new dynasty able to rival the family of Ffion Hague. The best of luck.*

Pot luck

A THESIS knocked off by a Khmer Rouge leader has been deleted by the Sorbonne. Khieu Samphan, one of Pol Pot's former flunkies, who has defected to the Cambodian Government, undertook an economic PhD, which suggested emptying Cambodia's parasitical cities, at the Parisian grove in 1959. Now France has called for the country's war criminals to be tried, the Diary Towers archivist can find no trace of the work at the university.

● *NEW YEAR may have been raucous; next year's could be more so. Sting, a singer, tells me: "I keep being offered gigs in ludicrous places. The locations are even more outlandish than the ancient holy site of Machu Picchu in Peru."*

Banana split

BILL CLINTON has swopped cigars for bananas. The President took time out from his domestic problems to engage Sir Leon Brittan in a fierce debate over fruit.

The United States wants a punitive import tax on Europe's bananas and after failing to resolve the dispute, Sir Leon, the European Commissioner, expressed his frustration: "The only thing that makes this discussion almost tolerable is listening to you pronounce 'bononnas'." I'm sure Clinton was equally delighted to gaze at Brittan.



"Oh bad luck . . . the darned thing's still there"

● *TWO unlikely bedfellows: Simon Wiesenthal and Quentin Crisp, who have both just turned 90. While dear old Simon attributes his longevity to hunting jackbooted sorts, Mr Crisp is more pragmatic: "I never, never work. Work does age you so." So I have been told.*

Cast aside

AFTER my disclosure that Christina Odone fantasised about being stranded on a desert island with Peter Mandelson, I am not surprised about her maudlin taste in literature. The Roman Catholic writer, who has spurned the attentions of my friend John Humphrys, says her favourite book last year was *Falling Slowly*, by Anita Brookner: "A poignant study of wrong-headed romanticism and the loneliness it can induce. Brookner's melancholic heroines always strike a chord." My advice? Give up on politicians and newscasters.

Blood money

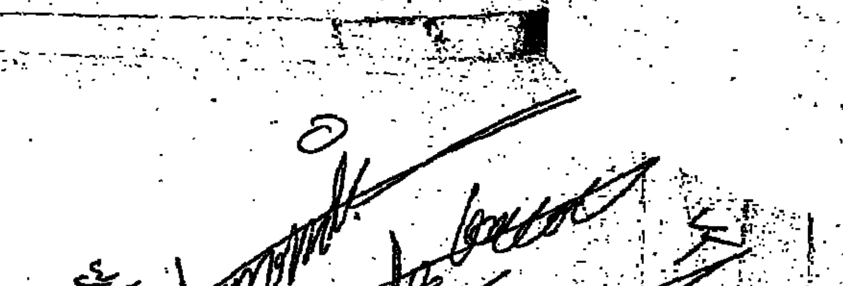
JOANNE GUEST, the untaxing clothes horse, is trying to break into

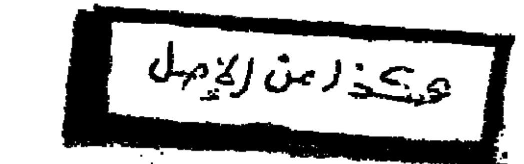


films, and needs your kind donations. Ms Guest (above with admirer) is feeling her age as a "glamour model" so has signed up to play the heroine in something called *Suckered*, a jolly vampire romp. Trouble is, the production company, Dead Red, is £6,000 short and is appealing for dosh. My butler Owen pleads: please give generously.

● *A NEW fast-food joint is touting for passing trade (and Ron Davies) on Clapham Common. Its inviting name? "Chicken Cottage." Enjoy.*

JASPER GERARD







PERILOUS PETITIONS

A time to save the grammar school, not sign it away

For many parents with a child at state school, this year promises unrest, instability and dispute. The cause of this gloomy prophecy is the Government's policy to allow parents to petition, and then vote to abolish the 164 remaining grammar schools. Ignoring all arguments against what is a vindictive and damaging measure designed to set parent against parent, ministers have surrendered to old Labour dogma. The power to preserve these beacons of excellence now rests with parents themselves. Before they put their name to a petition calling for the end of selection in local schools, they should think hard about the consequences.

Kent County Council runs a fifth of the nation's grammar schools. As we report today, if Kent's parents vote to end selection, the council will need to restructure much of the county's education system. This could cost about £150 million, which the council will need to find itself: the Government has already said it will not be providing any extra money to cover the cost of grammar schools' abolition. Parents should ask themselves: would this money not be better spent on failing schools, on books, teachers and new equipment, rather than on destabilising thousands of children's education?

The opponents of grammar schools claim that selection is unfair, and results in "educational apartheid". They argue that children who fail to get into a grammar school are consigned to "sink" schools, where they are deprived of the education they deserve and risk being labelled a failure, sapping their confidence. It would be fairer, according to these egalitarians, to treat every child the same, by giving them the same opportunities.

Persuasive though this argument might be to some, it suffers from the fatal flaw of being quite removed from reality. All children are unique, with their own set of skills, strengths and weaknesses. A fully comprehensive, monochrome system, that provides the same education for every child, cannot cater for the wide range of ability that exists. Diversity of talent should be reflected by diversity of provision. It is worth noting that 10 per cent fewer English and Welsh pupils gain five or more A-C grades in their GCSEs than do their counterparts in Northern Ireland, which has an almost fully selective system. Where teaching is matched to the abilities of the children, all pupils gain.

There are pockets of educational failure in England and Wales where the only choice is between underperforming schools. Yet parents should not be lulled into blaming this on the existence of grammar schools: the culprits are more likely to be inadequate teachers and poor management. Instead of levelling down standards by smothering the pinnacles of achievement, they should be exhorting their councils to do more to raise standards in failing schools. Until this happens, the destruction of grammar schools will pose parents with bright children a stark choice: to risk the local comprehensive or opt out by sending their offspring to an independent schoool. Why should they suffer this fate?

Left-wing ideologues might well rejoice at the abolition of grammar schools. But their actions will harm those whom they most claim to help, the children themselves. Money will be wasted on reorganising schools; parental choice will be restricted; children's education will be disrupted and their opportunities hindered, not widened. Parents should consider these consequences before signing any petition on a grammar school's future.

DEMOCRACY'S TYCOON

The Magellan of the Net exemplifies the Nineties

If the charting of outer space was a voyage of discovery which inspired modern Magellans in the third quarter of this century, the past decade has been dominated by the colonisation of cyberspace. The scientific creativity which once clustered around the Nasa bases of America's South East has been eclipsed by the technological fecundity of California's Silicon Valley. And the pioneer who has helped millions to make the new world of the Internet their own is a Stanford University dropout who became a billionaire before he was 30. Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo!, the Internet search engine, is democracy's tycoon.

The Internet is, in essence, no more than another communications network, the lineal descendant of Marconi, Bell and Logie Baird's brainchildren. But its potential, to transform society and bewilder the beginner, is altogether greater. A few key strokes allow any individual access to a greater library of information than any scholar has hitherto dreamt of. The sheer scale of the Internet makes it imperative to find a trusted guide through the electronic souk. Yahoo! provides that guide, acting as a living gazetteer and endlessly renewable map.

PEOPLE OF THE CENTURY

Yahoo! (which stands for Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle) grew out of the leisurely exploration of the Net indulged in by Jerry Yang and his friend David Filo while they were both finding reasons not to work on their doctorates at Stanford University. Messrs Filo and Yang pooled their knowledge of the most interesting sites on the Net in a catalogue which they, in turn, put on the Net for the use of their friends.

The quality of their directory was such that they were soon inundated by requests from individuals and companies who wished to be included. After harnessing the advice of business-literate friends, the two men dropped out of university, set up their catalogue as a company, charged for advertising and became billionaires last year. Their success sets the tone for the next economic revolution. Among the barriers dissolved by the Internet are those to entry in the burgeoning markets of the future. Information has become the most important commodity traded worldwide. But in the welter of information available, the most valuable possession is a reputation for trustworthiness in the organisation and interpretation of new material.

Jerry Yang has become a tycoon through the democratisation of this medium. But he is also democracy's tycoon in another sense. The freedom of America, its willing embrace of the new and its distrust of closed hierarchies made Mr Yang's success possible. It is only when the free society and the free market are entwined, like the double helix of DNA, in intimate embrace that man's capacity to create and grow is greatest. That lesson, embedded in the story of Mr Yang's entrepreneurial success, should be at the forefront of every mind as we look back upon a century in which democracy has secured hard-fought victories but has difficult battles yet to win.

COLLECTION DAYS

Help *The Times* to fill the bookshelves of our schools

To a child with few opportunities at home, what greater gift could there be than the chance to escape to a different world? A good education offers long-term escape; a wonderful book affords instant flight to other times, places, people and plights. The beauty of *The Times's* Free Books for Schools scheme, launched today, is that, by encouraging children to enter now into the joy of reading, it may help to produce a generation of more literate, better educated young people in the future.

The scale of this enterprise is immense. In cooperation with other titles owned by News International — *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News of the World* — and Walker snackfoods, some one billion tokens will be issued between now and the end of March. If all were cashed in, schools around Britain would be able to order between two and ten million free books. There are 150 titles to choose from, ranging from Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* to James Joyce's *Dubliners*.

Here is a chance for readers to make a real difference. Head teachers will encourage parents to collect and contribute. But even outside the narrow school community, there is ample goodwill to be tapped. As we report today, many City firms are already planning to collect tokens and hand them on to nearby schools.

No school can ever have enough books; and some have far too few. Years of financial stringency have taken their toll on school libraries. For children with book-lined walls at home, such deprivation can be offset. But for those who cannot slake their thirst to join the world of the imagination, this scheme offers a great new start.

Reading is an enthusiasm that can easily be instilled. The age of computers does not, as some pessimists insist, foretell the death of the book. Far from it. Whatever the achievements of Jerry Yang and his followers, the computer and the written word are not competitive (as books and television are) but complementary. Children cannot become truly computer-literate until they are truly literate. And even playing games on a laptop encourages the very habits of solitude, silence, concentration and sitting still that are part of curling up with a book.

But who ever heard of curling up with a computer? The hardware is still too cumbersome, the screen too flickery, for reading at a computer to be a relaxing experience. Indeed most people, when they find a mass of information on the Internet, will print it out for ease of hand and eye. Publishers moved from scrolls to pages almost two thousand years ago: computers have yet to match that convenience.

So books have a long life left. And each one ordered for a school can enrich many individual human lives. Covered in sticky-backed plastic, the corners of their pages dog-eared, today's books will remain in their libraries for a decade or two to come. Collect avidly, please — and help to bring new worlds to this generation of children and their successors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

CPS strength is in its independence

From Mr John S. Walker

Sir, After eight years as a salaried Crown Prosecution Service lawyer, I believe that your correspondents today are unduly pessimistic (see also letters, December 8 and 17).

There is now no serious argument against a single independent national prosecuting authority, locally delivered. Essential to that independence is the independent-mindedness of the individual prosecutor. That quality is already exercised daily in the "wham-bam" (Mr B. H. Slater's words) of the magistrates' court and is also applied there to "fine points of law".

In my experience salaried prosecutors are not now swayed from that duty by performance targets or prospects of promotion and there is no reason to think they will be in the future. Respectful fear of the judiciary will have a much more powerful effect than any performance target.

Also essential to that independence is adequate resources, lack of which is the source of Mr John Snell's perceived "increasing sloppiness" in case preparation. (The independent barrister is no bulwark against that, merely a victim.)

Obviously, looking at discontinuance, acquittal and conviction rates is one useful monitor of efficiency; but I can assure Professor Zander that I have never seen pressure of this kind used to affect individual case decision-making, nor should it be. If you use a plumber, whether self-employed or salaried, who always leaves the pipes leaking you think twice about continuing to use him.

A further essential, I suggest, is a mobile profession. (I have a philosophical bias against lifelong prosecutors.) More criminal advocates need to move from prosecuting to defending and vice versa, at all levels. Crown Court rights of audience are necessary for that, as are more flexible policies on recruitment and conditions of service. Mixing of experience can only improve both advocacy and Crown Court preparation.

Let us have both Crown Court rights and a vigorous independent profession!

Yours faithfully,
J. S. WALKER,
Shepherd's Pasture,
3 Chancery Close, Lincoln LN6 8SD.
December 29.

From Mr Paul Randolph

Sir, Since gaining their independence in the early Nineties, the newly emerging Central and Eastern European states have been steadily discarding their former Soviet-type laws and procedures and rebuilding new democratic legal infrastructures. In this process they have looked to the English legal system, which they hold in high esteem, for inspiration and guidance.

I am aware that lawyers throughout the Baltic States and Hungary, whether judges, attorneys or state prosecutors, all look in awe and admiration at the independence of the English Bar and a system which enables barristers to prosecute one day and defend the next. They are equally amazed that we appear to be moving towards a system which they have been striving ardently to relinquish.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL RANDOLPH,
(Chairman, British Estonian Latvian Lithuanian Law Association;
Vice-Chairman, British Hungarian Law Association),
New Court, Temple EC4Y 9BE.
December 29.

Pig farmers' plight

Mr Paul Cross

Sir, I want to thank *The Times* for its support of the pig industry over the last six months. You have featured articles on the current plight of pig farmers and your leader on December 19, "Eat pig for Christmas", shows your increasing concern for this very hard-working group of people. There is no doubt that they are all suffering badly at the moment.

When a break-even point of around 85p per kilo is needed and today prices are around 60p, a loss on a 100-bacon pig load would be £1,750. When we have seen prices of just 45p per kilo a couple of months ago whilst supermarkets were charging upwards of £1.80 per lb (approximately £3.90 per kilo) for English bacon, it sums up the unfairness of it all. Someone does seem to be making money out of this disaster.

British pig farmers have tried to take a decisive lead in improving the welfare of their stock but this, in turn, has only added to their production costs compared with overseas producers. If supermarkets say they would like to see more welfare-friendly systems, then they should start paying British pig farmers a premium, not forcing us out of business.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CROSS
(Manager),
Cotswold Research and Development Centre,
Wye, Kent TN25 5DF.
December 21.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

School holidays eat into term-time

The Reverend Andrew Bryant

Sir, How strange that a Government committed to promoting the strengths of family life should urge travel companies to issue warnings against parents taking their children on holiday during term-time (report, December 30). What evidence is there that one or two weeks out of school will damage their education? If the national curriculum cannot cope with a temporary absence, shouldn't a greater flexibility be built into the system?

When many families are spending less time together, the educational potential of simply learning to get on with one another on a shared holiday provides plenty of scope for personal and social development.

We have four children under ten, and financially could not take them away during the "peak" times of half-term and August. Most travel companies add excessive premiums then, thus discriminating against teachers as well as families.

Perhaps the School Standards Minister, Estelle Morris, could address this, rather than issue warnings in travel brochures or urge head teachers not to allow absences for a wholesome family break.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BRYANT,
54 Fairholme Avenue,
Romford, Essex RM2 5UX.
andrew.bryant@btinternet.com
December 30.

From Mr Desmond High

Sir, I put the children's (state) school dates on the calendar yesterday, and these more or less rule out the prospect of a two-week break at any time other than during the six-week summer period.

With a full week at half-term and the Easter break starting on Wednesday, March 30 (back on Monday, April 12), is it any wonder that some parents are removing their children during term-time? With fewer options for the timing of holidays, it is no surprise that it creates a vicious spiral in demand at key times — with price increases to match.

Perhaps those who blame parents for their irresponsibility might first look at the alternatives for those on a limited budget, or who wish to enjoy a relaxing break somewhere that is not over-run.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND HIGH,
556 Loose Road,
Loose, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 9UR.
desmondhigh@compuserve.com
December 30.

From Mrs J. M. Williams

Sir, Surely the simple answer is for schools to stagger the spring and summer breaks?

Why do they have to take two weeks at Easter, a week in May and between five and seven weeks in summer? Why not three weeks at Easter, two weeks in May, or even a week in June (the old Lancashire mill-town holiday), staggering the summer break with perhaps a month in July for some schools, mid-July to mid-August for others?

Demand would even out for holiday companies, with less crowded beaches in August.

The downside would be no guarantee of child-free zones for those of us not saddled with school holidays.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN M. WILLIAMS,
Bridge House,
Goostrey, Cheshire CW4 8PZ.
scoop2001@aol.com
December 30.

From Mr Philip R. Matthews

Sir, Lower cost is not the only reason why parents take holidays during schooltime. Many big companies allow only a certain percentage of staff to take annual holidays during school holidays, especially the long summer break — which may leave staff who want to go away as a family no choice in the matter.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP R. MATTHEWS,
71 Shaftesbury Road,
Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0DU.
phil6061@aol.com
December 30.

Election turnout

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, Your report (December 29) that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has announced that there is to be a "powerful body . . . to spearhead a drive to raise the low level of turnout in elections" reveals once again how out of touch many politicians are with the attitudes of ordinary voters.

There are two main reasons why so many people feel it is not worthwhile to vote. They believe, as Matthew Parris pointed out in his report of December 24, that politicians are all the same once they get into power; and they believe that there are too many elections.

Ron Davies, Geoffrey Robinson and Peter Mandelson are certainly making a fine job of confirming voters in their beliefs about politicians. As for the number of elections, the addition to the list of various invitations to visit the polling stations for elections to the Scottish parliament, the Welsh assembly, regional assemblies (in all probability) and of a London mayor, as well as for several referendums, must serve to reduce the average turnout further. Moreover, the depersonalised, party-list form of PR will hardly add voter appeal to the elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Straw's proposed powerful body will not overcome the conviction which many unfortunately hold that party politics is irrelevant and boring. His party is causing the yawns to become even longer.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST
(Chairman, South West Wales Area Conservative Council),
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire SA62 5ER.
December 29.

Peace in Cyprus

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, At a seminar in Oxford last September on the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923, representatives of both sides — and particularly the Greeks present — agreed that the exchange, by creating two essentially monoethnic, monocultural countries, promoted lasting stability in the region.

So when you call, as you do in the wake of the Cyprus S300 missile fiasco (leading article, "Back from the brink", December 31), for a "statesmanlike response" from Turkey, you should be aware that your interpretation of statesmanship is in many ways alien to that part of the world.

It may be wildly politically incorrect in Western Europe, with its post-colonial guilt and its emphasis on integration. But at the other end of the Mediterranean, the cause of peace is best served by separating mutually hostile people — the situation which has obtained peacefully in Cyprus since 1974.

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Savile Club,
69 Brook Street, W1Y 2ER.
osmanstreater@hotmail.com
December 31.

Church and community

From the Archdeacon of Lancaster

Sir, Dominic Kennedy's statement that at midnight on December 31, 1999, 100 churches will celebrate the millennium by ringing bells "paid for by the Millennium Commission" (report, December 30) tells only part of the story.

The commission has indeed facilitated a welcome chance for many churches to restore their bells. But these projects would have been impossible without the dedication and enthusiasm of ringers and congregations. Most of them have been fostered by loyal bellringers over many years prior to the present grants and would not have been achieved, even supported by the grants, without the hard work locally.

I also take issue with Mr Kennedy's odd notion that somehow, by virtue of the millennium, "Churches will be restored to the heart of community life". The report *Still in the City*, published ten years after the seminal *Faith in the City* report of 1985, shows that the Church is frequently among the very small number of agencies working with the inner-city communities. Similarly, the support given by rural churches to farmers in adversity, for instance, and to village shops threatened with closure has shown these churches to be fundamental to the way of life of Britain's countryside.

Surely, the Church can rightly claim to be at the very heart of the community into the millennium and beyond.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LADDS,
Archdeacon of Lancaster,
St Michael's House,
Hall Lane, St Michael's-on-Wyre,
Preston PR3 0TQ.
December 30.

Services rendered

From Father Paul James

Sir, I have followed with fascination the correspondence concerning recompensing doctors who assist at medical crises on aircraft (letters, December 15 and 31). They are not the only professional group who are called upon in time of need.

Whilst I was on a flight to Jamaica a few years ago, a call for a member of the medical profession was met with no response. Some forty minutes later I received a discreet request for my attendance at the rear of the cabin to attend a passenger who had died during the flight. This was followed by nearly four hours of sitting with the deceased family until we landed and the authorities took over.

I notice that the *Table of Parochial Fees*, recently published by the Church Commissioners, covers funeral rites in churches, churchyards and crematoria, but has inexplicably omitted jumbo jets.

In secula seculorum,
PAUL JAMES,
210 Markhouse Road, E17 8EP.
frpauljames@compuserve.com
January 2.

Sport letters, page 34

Baseball's first joyful steps

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Cooley

Sir, Further to John Goodbody's report on baseball (December 26), my understanding is that *A Little Pretty Pocket Book*, published in London in 1744, contained the following verse, headed "Base-ball":

The ball once struck off,
Away flies the boy,
To the next destined post,
And then home again with joy.

The Boston publication Goodbody mentioned was Robin Carver's *Book of Sports*, which referred to the game as base, or goal ball. The first formal baseball rules were drawn up in 1845 by a surveyor, Alexander Cartwright, and drew heavily on Carver; a lot of the original code is still a part of baseball law.

Baseball was an amateur sport until the Cincinnati Reds turned professional in 1869. Their instant domination of the game led to the formation of the first professional league, the National Association, in 1871. It perished in 1875 in a welter of gambling, bribery, intimidation and corruption, to be followed by the present-day National and, in 1901, American leagues.

Yours faithfully,
REG COOLEY,
50 School Lane,
Fulford, York YO10 4LS.
December 27.

From Mr Guy Jackson

Sir In *Northanger Abbey*, chapter 1, Jane Austen describes Catherine Morland as preferring "base ball", cricket, etc, to books. It was written in 1797-98, although not published until 1818.

The author would not have referred to a sport unfamiliar to her readers so presumably it had been around for some time. Is this a coincidental linking of two different sports, or does it, more probably, indicate a direct connection between our earlier base ball and the later baseball?

Yours faithfully,
GUY JACKSON,
4 Addison Crescent, W14 8JP.
December 28.

Pleasing response

From Mrs Joy Breckwoldt

Sir, My advice to Mr Pat Buckley, who complains that his enjoyment of reading *The Times* is frustrating the plans he made for his retirement (letter, December 29), is to re-employ his teaching experience. If he timetables his day carefully, his ambitions to succeed in music, literature and art will fit neatly around longer than normal playtimes in which he can enjoy all the pleasures of his newpaper.

Mrs Buckley's adjustment to his retirement may have to be more in the area of sharing those pleasures.

Yours faithfully,
JOY BRECKWOLDT,
The Vicarage, 30 Cross Street,
Moulton, Northampton NN3 7RZ.
peterbreckwoldt@compuserve.com

From Mrs S. R. B. Wood

Sir, I am a fellow-sufferer. My husband has also recently left his job. He had great intentions of how to occupy himself, such as becoming computer-literate, landscaping the garden, even building a barbecue. Unfortunately a major part of his day is spent doing the *Times* crossword. I am told that when working he used to complete it. When did he have the time?

For myself I have had to find other ways to occupy myself, such as how to get my hands on the paper.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE WOOD,
Brockfield Farmhouse,
Warthill, York YO19 5XJ.
clare.brockfield@btinternet.com
January 1.

Ex-celebs

From Mr C. Tudball

Sir, I was going to put together a New Year's Deletion of Celebrity Status List of those who have ceased to be famous and whom we can forget as Mr Peter Harrand (letter, December 31) suggested. But, try as I may, I just cannot seem to remember anyone who is worthy of being included in it.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS TUDBALL,
28 Larchfields,
Wolston, Coventry CV8 3JL.
crudball@aol.com
January 1.

From Mr M. S. Evans

Sir, Many years ago I attended a dinner in London which was addressed by A. P. Herbert. He described the great pleasure he derived from living in retirement by the Thames at Hammersmith, which included listening to the description of notable landmarks being broadcast from the pleasure boats which travelled up and down the river.

On one occasion he heard the broadcaster say: "On our right, ladies and gentlemen, is the home of Sir Alan Herbert, who used to be a famous man."

Yours faithfully,
MARK EVANS,
Manor House, Brompton by Sawdon,
Scarborough YO13 9DJ.
January 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 3: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Durham preached the Sermon.

Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Miss Bridget Davies, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr Michael Walker, the Headmaster.

Birthdays today

Professor Victoria Bruce, psychologist, 46; Miss Grace Bumbry, opera and concert singer, 62; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, 59; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 69; Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia, 68; Mr Alan Dyer, former Chief Constable, Bedfordshire, 65; Mr Guy Forget, tennis player, 34; Professor K.J. Hancock, economist, 64; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, 96; Professor B. Josephson, FRS, physicist, 59; Air Vice-Marshal R.H. Kyle, 56; Professor L.E. Lanyon, Principal, Royal Veterinary College, 55; the Hon Diana Makgill, former civil servant, 69; Miss Margaret Marshall, opera and concert singer, 50; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxer, 64; Mr Nicholas Payne, general director, English National Opera, 55; Baroness Pitkeathley, 59; the Earl of Ranfurly, 70; Mr T.J. Rix, publisher, 65; Sir Alan Thomas, civil servant, 56; Sir Colin Turner, former MP, 77.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Stephen Mepham, Priest-in-Charge, Turnford CD (St Albans): to be Vicar, Rickmansworth (same diocese).
The Rev Iain Morrison, Vicar, Jarvis Brook (Chichester): to be Rector, Hastings St Clement and All Saints (same diocese).
The Rev Robert Myers, Assistant Curate, Addiscombe St Mary Magdalene (Southwark): to be Curate (to be known as Associate Vicar), Tolworth St George (same diocese).
The Rev John Neal, Priest-in-Charge, Eltham St John the Baptist (Southwark): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.
The Rev Wendy Patchell, Assistant Curate, Ashton on Mersey (Chester): to be Team Vicar, Hemel Hempstead (St Albans).

Eprime Eshag

A memorial occasion to commemorate the life and work of Eprime Eshag will be held in Wadham College, Oxford, on Saturday, January 23, 1999, starting in the Holywell Music Room at 2.30pm.

Lord Hunt, KG

A service of thanksgiving for the life of John Lord Hunt, KG, will be held at 11.00am on January 26, 1999, in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets in writing to: The Chapter Clerk, The Chapter Office, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ.





Kelly McCole, of Scotland, left, and Nicolle Moffitt, of the United States, rehearsing yesterday for last night's final of the Royal Academy of Dancing's 1999 Adeline Genée Awards at Her Majesty's Theatre in London

Nature notes

With the weather continuing mild, greenfinches are starting to make their wheezing spring note in the treetops. The males sit on high branches, showing off their green bodies and gold wing-bars, then fly off with looping flight and a rattling twitter. House sparrows are not so common as they used to be, but there are still many noisy flocks chattering in the depths of thick garden bushes, and some will soon begin nesting if the cold holds off. As in most mild winters, a few chiffchaffs have stayed here while the rest have gone to the Mediterranean: they are conspicuous in the bare hedges in their olive green plumage, and draw attention to themselves by their repeated, insistent "hweet" calls. Blackbirds are feeding among the dead, damp leaves; in their black or brown plumage, they would often escape notice without the explosions of leaves as they jerk them up with their beaks to find insects and snails. Chickweed is still in bloom: its white flowers close as rain approaches, and open when it has passed. Large, broken fronds of male fern are still green in roadside ditches, and on the banks of streams some delicate fronds of lady fern linger on. DJM

The blackbird

School news

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park
The Spring Term begins today at The Arts Educational School, Tring Park. The Chamber Choir will be performing *Love in the Air* at St John's Smith Square on February 10. The Drama Show is March 10-12 and the Dance show will be March 19-25. Term ends on March 26.

Chetham's School of Music
Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. From January 8 to 10, 12 ensembles from Chetham's will take part in HaydnFest 1999 at the Royal Northern College of Music. On February 10, Chetham's Symphony Orchestra will perform in Manchester Cathedral, in aid of The Leprosy Mission. The orchestra will play at the Hall for Cornwall, Truro on February 14. In the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on Sunday, March 21, the school will perform a concert featuring works by Walton, including Henry V, narrated by David Threlfall. Founder's Day is on Saturday, March 27.

Northbourne Park Preparatory School, Kent
The Spring Term begins today. Northbourne children will leave for their homestay visit to Bourg-en-Bresse on February 4 as part of the French Exchange programme. Year 8 will host a dinner party for their parents on February 11. Mr Karl Whittick will be holding a presentation evening for parents on the Sport and Leadership programme on Friday, March 12. Our 'Explorers' Club for able and talented youngsters will meet this term on a Tuesday evening and children from local schools are welcome to apply. Please contact Steve Punton on 01304 611215 for further details. The term will finish after the school concert on Saturday, March 20.

University news

Manchester

Appointments to chairs

Promotional Chair of Infectious Diseases
Ruth Christine Matthews, MSc, MD, PhD(London), FRCPath, at present Reader in Medical Microbiology at this University, as Professor of Infectious Diseases (in the Medical School) from November 1, 1998.

Promotional Chair of Molecular Medicine
Marcia Graciela Castro, MSc, PhD (National University of Argentina), at present Senior Lecturer in Medicine in this University, as Professor of Molecular Medicine (in the Medical School) from November 1, 1998.

Chair of Formal Methods
Andrei Voronkov, Dip, Kandidat (Novosibirsk State University), at present Docent at Uppsala University, as Professor of Formal Methods (in Department of Computer Science) from January 1, 1999.

Director of the Merlin/VLBI National Facility in the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories (NRAL)
Philip John Diamond, BSc (Leeds), DpAdvStudSc, PhD(Manchester), at present Deputy Assistant Director for VLA/VLBA Operations and Computing at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Socorro, New Mexico, as Director of the Merlin/VLBI National Facility in the NRAL of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from February 1, 1999, and, concurrently, as Honorary Reader in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Change of titles
Professor G.J. Brooke as Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis from October 16, 1998 (in lieu of his present title of Professor of Biblical Studies).
Professor D.R. Tomlinson as Dushan Dvornik Professor of Neuropharmacology throughout the tenure of his appointment (which commences on January 1, 1999), in lieu of his present title of Professor of Neuropharmacology.

Grant of title
Council has granted the title of Reader to Ms Caroline Glendinning, Senior Research Fellow in the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, for so long as she continues to hold her present appointment.

Appointments:
Honorary Professors
Dr Nicholas C. Jones as Honorary Professor of Cancer Research from January 1, 1999, for so long as he continues to hold appointment as Director of the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research.
Dr Ashley Arthur Woodcock as Honorary Professor of Respiratory Medicine (in the Medical School) from October 1, 1998, for three years in the first instance (in lieu of his current appointment as Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer).

Honorary Visiting Professor
Dr Ronald Strathearn Smith Fraser as Honorary Visiting Professor in the School of Biological Sciences from January 1, 1999, for three years in the first instance.

Appointments
David Louis Booton, BSc (Bristol), LLM (Liverpool), Lecturer in Law from September 1, 1998 to July 31, 2002.
Ronald Paul Buckley, BA, PhD (Exeter), Lecturer in Arabic in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies from September 1, 1998, to July 31, 2002.

Oxford

Jesus College
College prizes have been awarded to the following students:
R. Aled Davies Prize for Experimental Work in Engineering Science, Christopher Evans, Elin Orpwood-Price
Bahram Dehqani-Tafti Travel Scholarship, Terence Bennett
J N L Baker Prize in Geography, Simon Joyce
Bowers Award, Benjamin Klopsch, Andrew Tolley
Davies Prize, Hon-Wai Lam, Bernhard Fulda, Benjamin Preston
First Year Law Prize, Mark Vinall
Anthony Fletcher Awards for Innovation, Bernhard Fulda, Gwawr Jones, Trudi McGuiness
Genner Prize, Ian Conroy
Green Studentships, Aubrey Cunnington, Charles Willis-Owen, Matthew Weeks, Richard Blane, Christopher Bond, Enrico Del Prete, Oliver Gadney, Adam Brown
E C Hart Prizes, Andrew Jones, Gwawr Jones
Maddison Prize, Vidhya Alakeson
Paget Awards, Simon Hayden (Pembroke), Matthew Weeks
D G Ritchie Prize in PPE, Timothy Johnson
Stachulski Prize in Chemistry, Hon-Wai Lam
Graham Ward Award, Timothy Johnson
Welson Prize, Awarded jointly to Terence Bennett and Leah Griffiths
Woodward Prizes in Chemistry, Kate Frost, Paul Roberts
Junior Vaughan Prize, Gareth Smith (Mathematics)

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.H.St.C. Baddeley and Miss S.J. Trueman
The engagement is announced between Shaun, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Baddeley, of Donhead St Andrew, Wiltshire, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Trueman, of Hampstead, London.

Mr D.J.M. Blizzard and Miss J-A.C. Tweedie
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr John Blizzard and Mrs Janet Blizzard, both of the New Forest, and Jeannie-Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tweedie, of London SW6.

Mr P.L. Burtt and Miss L.A. Hall-Smith
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Julian Burtt, of Henley-on-Thames, and Lucinda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hall-Smith, of Milland, West Sussex.

Mr J.P. Byrne and Miss A. Howlett
The engagement is announced between Julien, son of Mr and Mrs Gregory Byrne, of Marbella, Spain, and Antonia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alistair Crawford, of Hawkley, Hampshire.

Mr C.R.D. Dennis and Miss J.A. Longcroft
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of the late Mr Carl Dennis and of Mrs Dennis, of Toronto, Canada, and Juliet, only daughter of the late Mr James Longcroft and of Mrs Valerie Longcroft, of Gstaad, Switzerland.

Mr H.G. Eatock Taylor and Miss R.R. Osborne
The engagement is announced between Henry, younger son of Professor and Mrs Rodney Eatock Taylor, of Oxford, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Osborne, of Waterbeach, Cambridge.

Mr M.J. Elliff and Miss E.S. Conyers
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs Jack Elliff, of Garforth, Yorkshire, and Emma, only daughter of the late Mr D'Arcy Conyers and of Mrs Conyers, of London.

Mr P.J. Gray and Miss J.H. Alderson
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs John Gray, of Milton, Cambridgeshire, and Jennifer Hannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Alderson, of Fordham, Cambridgeshire.

Mr A.J. Greenstock and Miss K.E. Gardner
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Greenstock, of Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Chris Gardner, of Kingham, Oxfordshire.

Mr E.A. Griffin and Miss E.J. Hulburd
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Griffin, of St Didier-au-Mont-d'Or, France, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hulburd, of Wingham, Kent.

Mr S.W. Higham and Miss J.H. Lamb
The engagement is announced between Stephen Walter, son of the late Commander W.E. Higham, RN, and of Mrs Higham, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Janet Hazel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Lamb, of Great Bookham, Surrey.

Mr S. Ramasamy and Miss S.E. Mason
The engagement is announced between Selvaraju, son of Mr and Mrs G. Ramasamy, of Dinas Powis, Wales, and Puszczykowo, Poland, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Mason, of Hindhead, Surrey.

Mr T.M.S. Rowan and Miss A.C. Wells
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Rowan, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Antonia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Wells, of Cuffley, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. Sampson and Miss L.M. Donaldson
The engagement is announced between Miles, son of Peter and Jocelyn Sampson, of Putney, London, and Lara, eldest daughter of David and Lois-May Donaldson, of Balerno, Edinburgh.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, Dublin, 1581; Jacob Grimm, philologist and folk-tale collector, Hanau, Germany, 1785; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Coupvray, France, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of a shorthand system, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1813; Augustus John, painter, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, 1878.

DEATHS: Stephen Hales, clergyman, pioneer of plant physiology, Teddington, Middlesex, 1761; Joseph John Gurney, philanthropist and writer, 1847; Cornelius Vanderbilt, financier, New York, 1877; Charles Keene, artist, Hammersmith, 1891; Benito Goldos, novelist and dramatist, Madrid, 1920; Henri Bergson, philosopher, Nobel laureate 1928, Paris, 1941; Albert Camus, novelist, Nobel laureate 1957, Sens, France, 1960; T.S. Eliot, poet, Nobel laureate 1948, London, 1965; Donald Campbell, killed when his speedboat crashed on Coniston Water, Cumbria, 1967; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Shaba Game Reserve, Kenya, 1980; Christopher Isherwood, novelist, California, 1986.

Fabian Society was founded, 1884.

The first successful appendix operation was performed by Dr Williams West Grant, in Iowa, 1885.

Chinese Communists captured Seoul during Korean War, 1951.

Rose Heilbron became the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, 1972.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Don't let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good. Romans 12.21 (CEV).

BIRTHS

MASON - On 26th December 1998 in New York to Sophia (née Weston) and Charles, a beautiful daughter, Emily Georgia.

SYMES - On December 31st at Queen Charlotte's, to Caroline (née Beaumont) and Ben, a son, Harrison Jack Michael (Harry) and a daughter Isabel Mary Endellion, a brother and sister for Arthur.

VULLIAMY - December 15th to Laurence - TV Producer and Madeleine Mitchell - violinist, a daughter, Zerlina Evelyn Anna.

WALKER - On 23rd December 1998 in Luxembourg, to Jessica (née Willink) and James, a son, Nicholas John, a brother for Harry.

WATKINSON - On Christmas Eve 1998 to Sarah (née Weymont) and Mark, a daughter Caroline Elizabeth Sheridan. A sister for Tom.

DEATHS

ALLMAND-SMITH - On December 27th 1998 peacefully, Kathleen aged 84 years formerly of Over Stratton Somerset and Pythouse Wiltshire. The dearly loved wife of Leon Allmand-Smith, much loved mother of Peter, Wendy and Timothy and devoted Grannie to her nine grandchildren. Funeral service on Friday 8th January 1999 at Gt. Warford Chapel, Merrimans Lane at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Save the Children Fund. All donations and enquiries to Albert R Slack (Funeral Director) Ltd., 84, South Oak Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6AT. Tel: Wilmslow (01625) 525063

BEDFORD - Stanley Charles, of Bourne End, Bucks, on 26th December 1998. Funeral Service 12.00 noon on Tuesday 12th January at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to RNLI. C/o G. Smith Funeral Director, The Green, Wooburn Green, Bucks HP10 Tel: 01628 523566

BURDASS - On Christmas Day, Bruce Henry Oliver, father of Andy and Gina. Cremation family only, no flowers, donations please to the Kent Men of the Trees. C/o A Spicer and Son. Tel: 0181 574 3186.

BURRELL - Susan, beloved wife of Denis and much loved mother of Richard and Charlie, passed away suddenly, but peacefully, at her mother's house in the Isle of Man on December 26th 1998. The funeral service will be at St James Parish Church, Gerrards Cross on Tuesday 5th January at 2.30pm. Flowers or if preferred, donations to the St John Ambulance Buckinghamshire, Nona-Centenary Appeal may be sent c/o H.C Grimstead, Funeral Directors, Churchfield Lodge, Churchfield Rd, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9EW.

CHURTON - Beatrice Barbara on December 30th. Peacefully at home aged 89 years. Wife of the late Dick, very much loved mother of Anthony, Christopher, Robert and their families. Funeral Service 11.30am Friday January 8th at St Peter's Church Dalby North Yorkshire, followed by burial. Family flowers only donations to Dalby Church. Enquiries C Medd Funeral Directors 01347 821370

D'CRUZ - Douglas Gerald (formerly with Eastern Cas) died at home in Harpenden. Funeral Service at West Hertfordshire Crematorium on Friday 8th January 1999 at 3.00pm. No flowers by request.

DELME-RADCLIFFE - On 25th December 1998, at Deddington, Peter Delme-Radcliffe, widower of Alathea. Age 89 years. Funeral service at Langish Church, near Peterfield on Tuesday, 12th January at 12 noon, followed by interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only, donations for Fotherton House, c/o J & M Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 8DG. Tel: 01295 265424

DUNN - Andrew Baxter (Major Retired) died suddenly at home on 29th December 1998. Dearest husband, companion and friend of Edith and loving father of Peter and Sabine, Martin and Sarah. Funeral service and interment at St Kentigern's Church, Irthington, Cumbria on Tuesday 5th January at 1pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, to St Kentigern's Church.

HARRIS - David Percival. On New Year's Day peacefully at home, much loved husband of Nan and father of Martin, Jon and William. Funeral Service on Thursday 7th January 1999 at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to Albert R Slack (Funeral Director) Ltd., 84, South Oak Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6AT Tel: Wilmslow (01625) 525063.

HOPKINSON - On 30th December in Sheffield, John Richard, beloved husband of Isabel, dear father of Christine and Rhona. Service at St Andrew's U.R. Church, Sheffield on Friday 8th January at 10.30am, followed by cremation. Enquiries to John Heath and Son 01142 722222

HUMPHRIES - Philip James O.B.E on December 27th 1998 in Christ Church New Zealand, Sam, beloved husband of Jean, much loved father of Anne Todhunter and Josie Wilding, loving grandfather and great-grandfather.

JACOBS - Dorothy (née Parrish) Peacefully at home on December 27th 1998. Wife of the late Jack Clifford Jacobs, and beloved mother of Robert, Rosemary and Phillip. Funeral to be held at St. Mary's Church, East Molesey, Surrey on Friday, January 8th at 9.30am. No flowers by request. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

KIDSON - Clare, peacefully at home after a long and brave fight against cancer. Much loved partner of Brian and sister of Nigel and their respective families. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, both as a friend and through business. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Lower Common South, Putney, London SW15 on Tuesday, Janaury 12th 1999, at 2.30pm and afterwards at Mortlake Crematorium Townmead Rd, Richmond. Family flowers only please. Donation cheques should be in favour of 'Cancer Free' (A Royal Free Hospital Cancer Charity). C/o T.H. Sanders and Sons, FD's 447, Upper Richmond Rd West, East Sheen SW14 7PR.

MARSHALL - Dr Robert aged 76 years, passed away peacefully after a short illness on 29th December 1998. Much loved and missed by Stephen, John and family. Funeral to be held at Semington Crematorium, Wiltshire on Friday 8th January 1999 at 12.30 pm. Any enquiries, Tel: 01249 461 474.

LEATHER - Dot passed peacefully away at her home in Pound Close, Burwell on Saturday 2nd January 1999, aged 81 years. Loving mother of Jennifer and Anthony, mother-in-law to Penelope and Sandy and a much loved grandmother to Jessica, Poppy, Nick and Andrew. Funeral service at the West Suffolk Crematorium on Wednesday 6th January at 9.00am. Family Flowers only, donations to "Life Span Health Care" c/o Southgate's F/D 25, Duchess Drive, Newmarket, CB8 8AG.

O'CALLAGHAN - Kevin Colman, priest of The Society of Jesus (SJ) peacefully on 25th December 1998 at Nazareth House, Hammersmith aged 83 years. Dearly loved brother of Desmond and son of the late Joseph and Mary. Requiem Mass on Thursday, 7th January 1999 at 10.30 am at Westminster Cathedral. Followed by interment in Kensal Green Cemetery. RIP.

PARKES - Beatrice Mary of Donhead St. Mary, widow of Brigadier Eric Parkes OBE late of the Royal Engineers and formerly of Enniscorthy County Wexford, died 22nd December 1998, aged 88 years. Funeral to be held at Ardcolm Church, Castlebridge, County Wexford with a memorial service to be held at St Mary's Church Donhead, St Mary, on a date to be announced.

PEARSON - On December 30th, Deborah Evelyn Margaret Sheila (née Vincent). Wife of Ronald Joseph, mother of Edward Anthony and grandmother of William Joseph. Family flowers only but donations if desired for The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, which gave her so much pleasure, c/o T A Element & Son Ltd, 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HR.

PECK - On December 30th at Salisbury, Josephine Buchanan, aged 81, widow of Ronnie, mother of Jane and Nicholas, grandmother of Julia, Lucy and Oliver. Funeral at Salisbury Crematorium on January 11th at 12.20pm. No flowers please.

REYNOLDS - Millicent Alice "Beau", peacefully in Peterborough on 30th December aged 85. Dearly loved mother Teresa and Peter and grandmother of Thomas and Vanessa. Funeral service at Park Road Baptist Church, Peterborough on 14th January at 1.15pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers or donations to the Cats Protection League sent C/o Watkins and Stafford, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Tel: 01733 565415

RHAM - Winifred (late of Acton, Middlesex) passed away peacefully in Suffolk, on December 28th 1998.

SHARP - Joan (née Byford) peacefully in hospital on 30th December 1998, beloved wife of David, mother of the late Rosalind, and Anthony. Private funeral (family flowers only), donations if desired to The Sharp Memorial Flower Fund, c/o The Vicarage, Bures, St Mary, Suffolk CO8 5AD. Memorial Service will be held in Bures Church on Friday 8th January at 2.30.

SOUTHWELL - Daphne Lewin, widow of Lt. Commander the Hon. John Michael Southwell, R.N., on 28th December 1998. Much loved by her family and friends. Memorial Service at St. Nicholas' Church, Longparish, Hampshire at 12 noon on Tuesday 12th January, after private cremation. Donations if desired to Countess of Brecknock Hospice, c/o John Steel & Son, 6, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 OHU.

STEWART - Ronald Duncan Ronnie. On 27th December, peacefully in hospital, aged 45. Much loved by family and those around him during years of coping with illness. Funeral 3.00pm on Thursday 7th January at Putney Vale Crematorium. Enquiries W.S. Bond Ltd. 0181 748 3185.

TAITT - Bernard Hugh on December 26th peacefully at the Flowerdown Nursing Home, Winchester. Much loved husband of the late Frances. For 35 years with the London Brick Company (1938 - 1973). Funeral Service at St Mary's Chapel, Chesil House, Winchester on January 8th at 11 am. Family flowers only plase. Enquiries to Jno Steel, Winchester 01962 844044

THORNTON - On December 29th 1998, Leslie Stuart Hugh after a short illness aged 84 years. Much loved and respected. Enquiries to Chiltern Funerals Tel:GX (01753) 882900.

WALKER - Betty (Rock). On 27th December, aged 83 years, after a short illness in the Horton Hospital, Banbury. The funeral service at Chipping Warden Parish Church on Friday, 8th January at 10.30am. No flowers please, donations if desired for Water Aid, c/o J&M Humphris, Albert Street, Banbury OX16 8DG.

WORSDELL - Peacefully in hospital on 30th December 1998. Edward (Ted) Stow Willard Worsdell MBE TD, aged 84 years, dearest husband of Elanor (deceased), very much loved and admired father of Jo and Angela, father-in-law of James and grandfather of Rachel, Emily and Jeannie; Ben and Tom. Funeral Service at St Martin's Church, Eynsford at 3.30pm on 12th January. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Three Churches Preservation Trust, c/o T.S. Horlock & Son, 10 The Hill, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9EU. Tel: 01474 352159

YAFFE - Geoffrey, MRPharmS MCPP MCIM, of Prestwich, Manchester, died with tragic suddeness on December 22nd, 1998. Will be deeply missed by his heartbroken father, devoted wife Evelyn, children Malcolm, Amanda and Stephen and granddaughter Eden Ellie.

YONGE - Cyprian Hubert, aged 85 years, peacefully on December 30th, son of Cannon J U Yonge, dearly loved and missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral 1pm Tuesday 5th January at Holy Cross Church, Newton Ferrer. Family flowers only. Enquiries Alan James Brothers, Funeral Directors, The Grindstone, Brixton, Plymouth. Tel: 01752 881419

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

ELIOT - Thomas Stearns, O.M. 4th January 1965. "...the communication/Of the dead is tongued with fire beyond the language of the living." - Valerie.

HAWKINS - Stella Lois of Bradford on Tone, Taunton. Memorial service Wednesday 6th January 1999 at St Giles Church, Bradford on Tone 12.30pm. Enquiries 01823 662009

MOYNIHAN - In memoriam Peg Moynihan JP, a square peg in a round hole, but not to those who loved her 1919-1989.

TILLMAN - Dr W. G. born 9th August 1912 died 3rd January 1995. In loving memory.

LEGAL NOTICES

No.5026 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF DALLANT UK LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 25th November 1998 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £339,04[illegible] ... [illegible]
DATED [illegible] 1998

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

GBE INTERNATIONAL PLC
In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mr T C Evans of Messrs Rogers Evans, 19 Brunswick Place, Southampton, [illegible]

TOLSON UK LIMITED
[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل



OBITUARIES

THE RIGHT REV RONALD GOODCHILD

The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington, 1964-80, died on December 28 aged 88. He was born on October 17, 1910.

Ronnie Goodchild — that is how he was known throughout his ministry, bishop or not — was a master at ensuring that useful things happened, though always in a typically unobtrusive Church of England manner. The variety of jobs he did, from school chaplain to suffragan bishop, gave full scope to his great pastoral gifts, which he exercised untiringly.

Ronald Cedric Osbourne Goodchild was born in Australia, the son of a clergyman who had been a Bush Brother before marrying and who later became vicar of Turnham Green in West London; the family returned to England when Ronnie was six. From St John's School, Leatherhead, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a second in both parts of the History Tripos and later a third in theology.

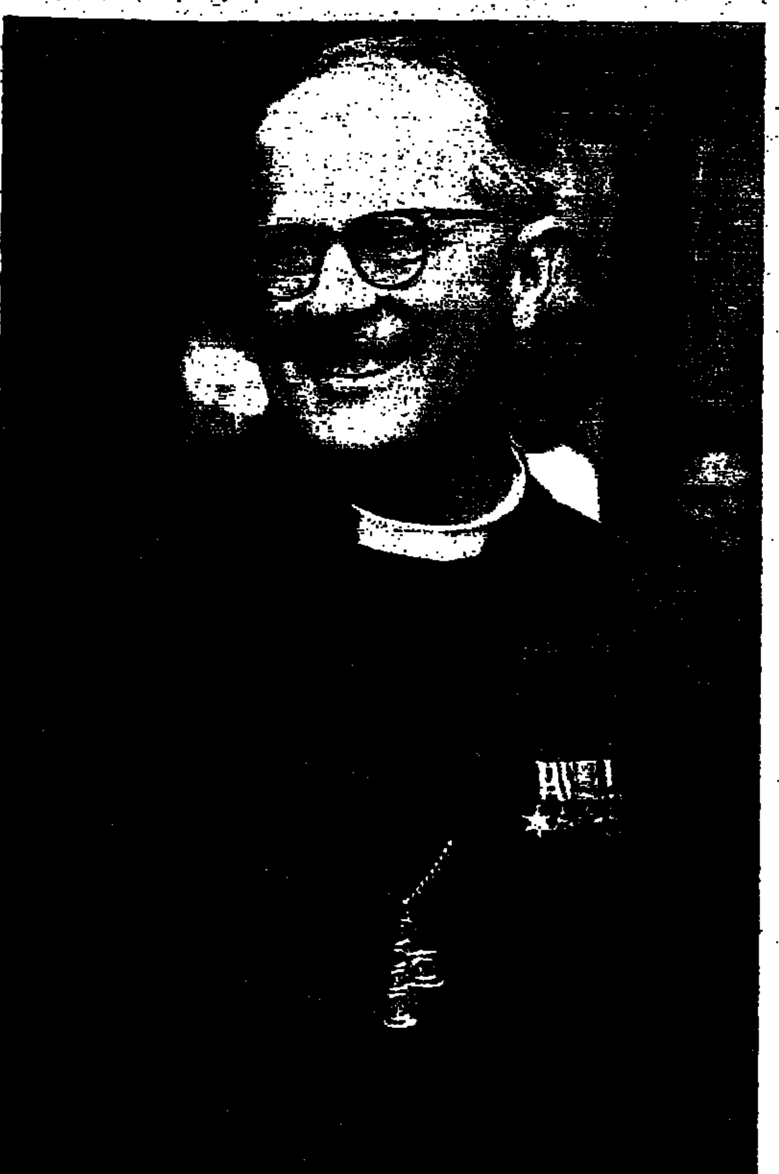
He then spent two years as an assistant master at Bickley Hall School in Kent before training for the ministry at Bishop's College, Cheshunt. Ordained by Bishop Winnington Ingram, he became a curate in 1935 at St Mary's, Ealing, thus gaining West London experience which was to prove useful in later years when he returned to the area as Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In 1937 he became chaplain at Oakham School, where he was a sympathetic figure, popular with the boys. He published *Daily Prayer at Oakham School* in 1938.

Much to his headmaster's displeasure, he volunteered for the RAF as a chaplain in 1942; his father was already serving. He flew on bombing raids, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and on one occasion had to entertain Winston Churchill on his own for half an hour during an alert.

After D-Day he went to France with a wing of Typhoon fighters. He remained in the RAF until 1946, then spent a further three years in Germany as Warden of St Michael's House, Hamburg, involved in educational work with young Germans who had grown up under Nazism.

He enjoyed a natural rapport with young people, and he continued to work with them on his return to England in 1949, becoming Schools Secretary of the then thriving Student Christian Movement, a position he held until 1953; for the last two of those years he was also priest-in-charge of the City of London parish of St Helen's Bishopsgate with St Martin Outwich.



Goodchild: rapport with the young, whether as school chaplain or bishop

From 1953 to 1959 he was vicar of Horsham in Sussex, and from 1954 rural dean. He worked hard, building a fine team of clergy. As ever keen on youth work, he formed Horsham Boys' Club, as well as a cricket team. He also proved an effective and innovative fundraiser.

At the invitation of Robert Stopford, then Bishop of Peterborough, Goodchild became Archdeacon of Northampton in 1959 and also rector of Ecton. He arranged for Ecton rectory to become the diocesan retreat house on his departure, was greatly committed to ecumenism, and worked all hours in the archdeaconry. Stopford became Bishop of London in 1961, and three years later called Goodchild to be Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In West London the same pastoral ministry went on, allied to innovation. He had in the early 1950s become involved with the Parish and People movement, and retained a strong interest in developing new forms of worship and reviving parochial life. Now he was instrumental in initiatives such as the Heathrow airport chaplaincy. He also gave much valuable help to parish clergy.

His disarming manner was often evident. In Notting Hill, for instance, where the clergy were concerned to build good relationships between the black community and the police, he opened one meeting with prayer, saying that he was "first in to bat", a remark perhaps more redolent of Oakham than the Portobello Road but one likely to endear him all the same to any West Indian cricket lovers present. On another occasion, celebrating Communion in a parish church, he said to the congregation: "The Lord is here." Meeting with no congregational response, he turned to the server with the words: "He is here, isn't He?"

The offer of a diocese did not come his way. He served for 16 years in Kensington. During those years, the London diocese was moving towards a new system of organisation based on episcopal areas and synods, with Bishop Stopford's (and later Bishop Ellison's) full support. This came into being in 1979, Goodchild having played an enthusiastic part in the work of reorganisation. He was a willing participant in group work, collaborating with fellow London bishops much younger than he, until his retirement. Always strongly committed to Christian social action, he served from 1964 to 1974 as chairman of the Christian Aid department of the British Council of Churches. He was a member of General Synod from 1974 to 1980.

He took to retirement well in 1980, free to follow his beloved cricket, and to indulge his passion for carpentry, always being a handyman. He and his wife Jean, whom he had married in 1947 and who was a rock of support all his life, moved to Welcome, near Bideford, in North Devon. From 1983 he served as an assistant bishop in the diocese of Exeter, enjoying helping out but thankful not to have to go to meetings.

He leaves his widow, four daughters and a son.

PROFESSOR PAUL HANCOCK

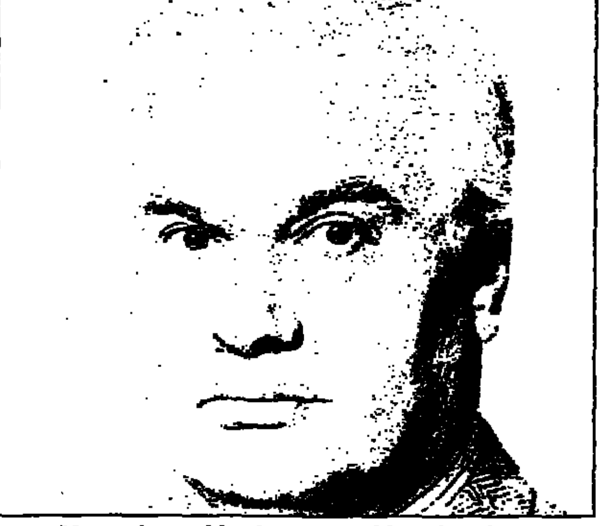
Paul Hancock, Professor of Neotectonics at the University of Bristol, died of cancer on December 9 aged 61. He was born on March 26, 1937.

PAUL HANCOCK was an international authority on active fault zones and the movements that result from earthquakes. He was an expert in archaeoseismology, the analysis of earth movements from evidence of damage to archaeological sites, particularly in the classical world. He was on the staff of the Bristol geology department for 30 years.

Paul Lewis Hancock was educated at Sheen Grammar School, London, and Durham University, where he graduated with a first in geology in 1959. His doctoral research, on the structural geology of the Orielton anticline in Pembrokeshire, was also carried out at Durham, under the direction of Professor Martin Bott, and was completed in 1962.

Hancock then spent two years as a research fellow in Cambridge, before taking lecturing posts in Nottingham and at Strathclyde University. In 1968 he joined the geology department of Bristol University, where he was to remain and where, three years ago, he was appointed to a personal chair as Professor of Neotectonics.

While structural geologists were focusing mainly on the complexities produced by the multiple folding of rocks, Hancock embarked on an investigation of how rocks fracture under stress to produce faults and joints. When interest in faulting became much more widespread in the 1980s, he was already an acknowledged leader in the field. His research shifted from the study of ancient fault systems, mainly in South Wales, the Cotswolds and the Bristol district, to the investigation of active faults, particularly in the Aegean.



Hancock: combined geology with archaeology

This allowed him to indulge his passion for fieldwork in areas where the detailed evidence in the rocks is less obscured by vegetation: in Greece, Turkey (Anatolia), Saudi Arabia and Spain. In collaboration with Terry Engelder of Pennsylvania State University, he developed ways of determining stress fields in the Earth's crust using the pattern of joints (cracks) in rocks. His research on the evolution of fault zones is widely applied in areas of the world where earthquakes are commonplace.

In the 1990s Hancock combined his interest in geological structures with his fascination for archaeology. He showed, for example, how the displacement of a Roman water channel and the Byzantine fort built over it reveals that two earthquakes, some 500-1,000 years apart, affected the ancient city of Hierapolis in western Turkey.

But Hancock's contribution to geology went far beyond his own scientific work. He was an energetic and highly respected editor, and in 1978 founded the *Journal of Structural Geology*, now the leading journal for the subject. He was at various times a visiting professor in Argentina, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Canada and the United States.

He supervised some 20 research students, about half of them from the Middle East, but was perhaps more influential in his role, for more than 20 years, as tutor to undergraduates reading archaeology and geology at Bristol. His strong personality and interdisciplinary background added cohesion to a degree school that combines teaching from the faculties of arts and science and attracts students from widely different backgrounds.

He was an academic of the old school, and his style was somewhat formal, but many students seemed to prefer it that way. As a teacher he was well-organised, committed and uncompromising in his mission to explain.

His first marriage, to Janet Fletcher, was dissolved ten years ago. In 1994 he married Anne Becher, with whom he shared an enthusiasm for the arts, travel and good company. He is survived by her and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

DR HENRY COCKBURN

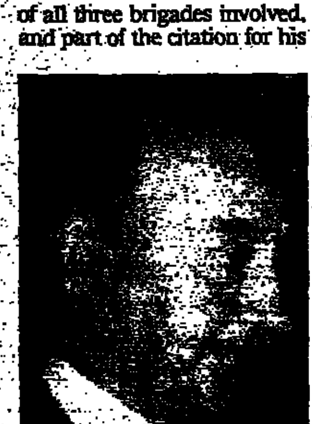
Dr Henry Cockburn, MC, former Medical Superintendent at St Mary's Hospital, London, died on December 4 aged 84. He was born on December 23, 1913.

HENRY COCKBURN, known as Cocky, was the last person to hold the traditional post of Medical Superintendent at a London teaching hospital. Such posts had been in existence since the 19th century and were usually given to bright young graduates, carefully selected by the consultant staff of the hospital, to be held for a few years on a small stipend while training for a chosen speciality. The duties were not arduous, and consisted principally of seeing that the beds were occupied, supervising the conduct of the resident medical staff and looking after the health of the nursing staff.

However, when Henry Cockburn was appointed to this post at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, as a returning ex-serviceman after the last war, he became indispensable. He kept the post for nearly thirty years and became one of the most dominant and certainly most loved figures at St Mary's, respected and admired by generations of medical students, doctors and nurses.

The son of a GP, Henry Dundas Cockburn was born in Ealing, educated at Oundle and in 1931 won a scholarship to study medicine at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. For the next seven years he enjoyed life to the full as an undergraduate, excelling at all forms of sport. It was the time of the great St Mary's Hospital rugby team of the 1930s, and Cockburn held his position as scrum half, setting up a special partnership with T. A. Kemp, the England outside half.

Cockburn qualified in 1939, and after a year of resident hospital posts joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He spent most of the war in the Far East, initially commanding a field ambulance company attached to 32nd Independent Infantry Brigade. In the heavy fighting against the Japanese during the Bishenpur and Imphal operations, his advance dressing station had to deal with the casualties of all three brigades involved, and part of the citation for his



Military Cross stated that "he organised and inspired search parties which succeeded in bringing in the wounded although the battle was still raging, and by getting the casualties under cover he saved many lives of the 200 wounded under his care". He continued with the Army throughout the Burma campaign, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and being twice mentioned in dispatches.

The war over, he returned to St Mary's and was appointed assistant director of the student and staff health centre, which had just been started by his old friend and rugby colleague Dr T. A. Kemp. Within a few years he was also appointed Medical Superintendent, and he remained in that post until his retirement in December 1979.

In his early postwar years he played rugby for Richmond and the Barbarians but then he settled down to a more sedate kind of rugby by forming a Schools XV made up of young medical students, with himself and Kemp as the oldies. Each week they had a fixture against well-known rugby schools in England, and while this helped to encourage rugby it also helped to recruit potential medical students for St Mary's.

Although he had little time for the vast increase in bureaucracy and committee work which came about during his time as Medical Superintendent, Cockfield's direct and honest approach with administrators earned their respect, and they frequently turned to him for advice. His concern and support for the junior medical staff were renowned, and many will recollect with gratitude the gentle advice offered in what could be frightening circumstances for a young newly qualified doctor.

He never married and in retirement went to live in an old cottage in a remote part of the Welsh Borders. Here he lived happily for some 18 years, winning the affection and regard of the small village community.

He continued to visit London and participated in those activities at St Mary's that interested him such as the Postgraduate Association and the setting up of the medical school and hospital archives. He was also a regular supporter of the rugby club Easter tour of the West Country, and for many years organised the annual golf and cricket tour for postgraduates.

KARL DENVER

Karl Denver, pop singer, died from a brain tumour on December 21 aged 67. He was born on December 16, 1931.

BETWEEN the summer of 1961 and spring of the following year, Karl Denver was rarely out of the pop charts. In the space of nine months he had four consecutive Top Ten hits in Britain. It is for the third of them, the maddeningly memorable *Wimoweh*, that he is likely to be remembered. The record entered the charts on January 25, 1962, and remained there for 17 weeks, reaching number four.

Denver said that the song had its origins in an African tribal chant he had heard during his days as a merchant seaman. But its catchily exotic refrain was already familiar to pop fans by the time he came to record it. A version by the American folk group the Weavers, key players in the 1950s revival of traditional music, had been adapted from a 1930s South African song called *Mbube*. Reworked under the title *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, it became an international hit for the New York harmony group the Tokens in 1961, reaching number one in the US and number 11 in Britain.

The song would subsequently be recorded by Dave Newman, who reached number 34 in the British charts with it in 1972, and by the vocal group Tight Fit, for whom it was a number one hit in March 1982. But Denver was in many ways its ideal performer, and it his ideal song. Such success as he enjoyed was based on an improbably appealing musical cocktail of rhythm 'n' blues; country ballads; exotic borrowings from Africa, Asia or the Middle East: and a yodelling



Karl Denver performing with his trio: his career peaked in the early 1960s

Glaswegian falsetto. Those ingredients were never as well combined as they were in *Wimoweh*.

He was born Angus McKenzie in Springburn, Glasgow, a few years earlier than he sometimes cared to admit. It is doubtful whether his early years were quite as colourful as his later accounts of them would suggest. Nevertheless, it seems reasonably certain that he left school at 14, joined the Merchant Navy and, with the exception of a period of service in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the time of the Korean War, spent a decade or more at sea. His voyages — to China, the Caribbean, South America and, especially, southern Africa — were to feed an eclectic taste for musical esoterica that was in many ways ahead of its time.

He was in his twenties when his own musical career began. He would recount how he had jumped ship in the United States and worked for a while in the clubs of America's country music capital, Nashville, Tennessee, before being deported as an illegal alien; such tales were well told, but received with some scepticism by his friends. What is beyond dispute is that by the late 1950s he was settled in Blackburn, Lancashire, and was performing under the name Karl Denver.

With his exuberant mixing of musical styles, and a voice that swooped up and down through several octaves, he soon attracted attention. He secured a recording contract with the Decca label and had his first hit with *Marcheta* in June 1961; it spent 20 weeks in the charts and reached number eight. Its success was matched by that of *Mexicali Rose*, released in October, and then surpassed, in January 1962, by *Wimoweh*.

A fourth song, *Never Goodbye*, entered the charts in February and got to number nine, but Denver's career had already reached its peak. Over the course of the next two years he enjoyed rather more modest successes with a further seven records, among them *A Little Love A Little Kiss*, *Indian Love Call* and *Still*.

The pop world of 1964 was very different from that of just three years before, however, and to the increasingly important teenage audience Denver seemed old and his act old-fashioned. It was to be more than 25 years before he made a return to the charts.

Yet he declined to give up and was seldom out of work. With stalwart support from the guitarist Kevin Neill and the bass player Gerry Cottrell, he performed in cabaret, touring seaside towns in Britain and holiday resorts abroad. His personal life was dogged by misfortune at this time. A son was killed in a car accident in 1963, Denver himself having been seriously injured in another crash the year before. There were financial worries, too, with the singer at one point declared bankrupt and, in September 1968, briefly committed to Strangeways prison, Manchester, for arrears of maintenance payments; he was freed when the members of his trio clubbed together to help him out.

Denver made an unlikely and unexpected return to the limelight at the end of his career. Despite performing in comparative obscurity for so long, he had acquired something of a cult following over the years. It led to his being invited in 1990 to collaborate with Manchester's Happy Mondays, the neo-psychedelic pranksters who were leading lights in the 1980s acid house boom. He entered with gusto into the slightly ironic spirit of the venture. The resulting record, *Lazyitis — One Armed Boxer*, went some way towards winning over the children of those teenagers who had turned their backs on him in 1964.

He was twice married and had several children.

Latest wills

Joyce Eyre **Lomas**, of Bideford, Devon, left estate valued at £11,863,795 net.

Peter Johan **Jansen**, Group Chief Executive MB-Caradon, formerly MB Group, since 1989, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £8,818,327 net.

Edward Stephen James Richard **Hatter**, of St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, left estate valued at £6,675,014 net.

Sir Robert James **Clayton**, technical director, General Electric Co 1968-83, GEC Director 1978-83, of Stanmore, Middlesex, left estate valued at £2,479,470 net.

Baroness Dora May **van der Feltz**, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £240,711 net.

Lorna Kathleen **Machell**, of Pennybridge, Ulverston, Cumbria, left estate valued at £3,904,934 net. She left £6,000 to the PCC of St Mary's, Egton-cum-Newland, Pennybridge.

Norman **Jackson**, of Appleby, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,436,529 net.

Lawrence **McLean**, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,470,556 net.

Winifred **Marshall**, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,115,071 net. She left £500 each to Halifax branch, RNLI, Carlton United Reformed Church, Halifax, the PCC of St Anne's in the Grove, Southowram, Halifax, and the Calderdale Society for Continuing Care.

Norma **Oplatek**, of London SW19, left estate valued at £1,770,615 net.

Harold Thomas **Petrie**, of Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,082,817 net.

Eric Murray **Prain**, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,096,702 net. He left £500 to the Sir Robert Speed Charitable Trust, and Clare College, Cambridge.

Elsie Winifred **Pratt**, of Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,520,124 net. She left £5,000 to St Peter's Trust.

James Galloway **Reeve**, of Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, left estate valued at £1,001,098 net. He left £500 to Thorpe St Andrews Parish Church.

Norman Walker **Scoular**, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,458,385 net. He left £5,000 each to Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind, Salvation Army, Cotswold Group of Riding for the Disabled; Royal British Legion, St Johns Ambulance Brigade, Guide Dogs for the Blind, National Star Centre for Disabled Youth, RNLI, National Trust for Scotland, Marie Curie Foundation, National Council of YMCAs, Red Cross Society and Cheltenham Animals Shelter; £2,000 to both the NSPCC and Stanton Guild House.

Violet Louisa **Sparrow**, of London SW20, left estate valued at £1,164,183 net.

Joyce Painter **Whiting**, of Dulwich, London SE21, left estate valued at £1,004,183 net.

Stanley Reginald **Woodland**, retired civil servant, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,113,112 net.

Phyllis Mercy **Woolgar**, of Hassocks, West Sussex, left estate valued at £995,858 net.

ON THIS DAY

January 4, 1896

Dr Jameson's raid against the Boer Government in the Transvaal on December 29 was a fiasco — a misplaced act of imperial folly, one in which The Times played a devious role. The Emperor William's telegram had the dual purpose of humiliating Britain and of acquiring a measure of popularity for him in Germany.

THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS

SERIOUS ACTION OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR

BERLIN, January 3.

The defeat and surrender of Dr Jameson and the Chartered Company's forces have been hailed here with a shout of triumph and the Emperor's message of congratulation to President Kruger is a relatively moderate expression of the general enthusiasm provoked by the victory of Germany's far-off kinsmen. *The Imperial Gazette* publishes the text of the Emperor's telegram as follows:-

"I express to you my sincere congratulations that without appealing to the help of friendly Powers you and your people have succeeded in repelling with your own forces the armed bands which had broken into your country and in maintaining the independence of your country aginst foreign aggression".

This telegram must not, however, be taken as merely the expression of the Emperor's personal feeling. It was drawn up after a conference at the Chancellor's Palace ... It assumes, therefore, the character of a State document of the highest importance, the more so as it contains an unqualified recognition of the independence of the South African Republic. Hitherto there had only been tentative efforts to explain away the restrictions placed by the Convention of 1884 on the international status of the Republic and to impugn the British claim of suzerainty. The Emperor's telegram decides the question summarily in the name of the German Empire. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Transvaal Government already draws from such powerful encouragement the conclusion that it can go a step further and denounce all its existing treaties with Great Britain on the ground that they are *de facto* nullified by such an act of unparalleled agression as that which has been carried out with her connivance, if not at her instigation and take this opportunity of placing its relations on a footing of equality which can never afterwards be challenged.

In official circles the promptitude and energy with which the British Government and the High Commissioner disavowed Dr Jameson's action and endeavoured to arrest his advance into Transvaal territory are no doubt recognized and appreciated. They are, of course, fully aware that instructions of the most categorical character had been despatched from London to the Cape some time before the German Government had taken any action in the matter. But unfortunately there has been little or no attempt to restrain public opinion by calling attention to that fact, and as a natural result the view almost universally taken is that Germany's intervention was mainly instrumental in compelling England to repudiate at the eleventh hour all responsibility for a criminal plot prematurely unmasked.

As for Mr. Cecil Rhodes's complicity, nothing will shake people's belief in it here. The language which is applied to him almost defies reproduction ...

NEWS

Confident market debut for euro

The euro last night made a confident debut in overseas markets as trading in the single currency finally became a reality following the completion of conversion weekend.

Full-scale trading kicked off in Sydney, the first major currency market to re-open following the New Year's break, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price. Japanese traders also reported the euro gaining against the yen....Pages 1, 6, 7

Clinton paternity tested through DNA

The teenage son of an Arkansas prostitute is awaiting the results of a DNA test to determine if he was fathered by President Clinton, it was reported yesterday. The sensational new claim came as the Senate wrangled over how to proceed with a trial of Mr Clinton for high crimes and misdemeanours....Page 1

School reform costly

Education authorities could be forced to take more than half a billion pounds out of frontline teaching budgets to pay for transforming grammar schools into comprehensives....Page 1

Two die in storms

Two people died as heavy rain, high seas and winds gusting at up to 75mph battered southern England, toppling trees and power lines and tearing boats from their moorings. Prolonged rain and gale-force winds are expected in northern England....Page 1

Hostage reminder

A return rail ticket from Gatwick, trodden into the dust of a desert plateau, left a poignant reminder yesterday of the holidaymakers whose trip to Yemen ended in deadly confrontation....Page 3

Bombers identified

Police have identified half a dozen of those responsible for the Omagh bomb, the head of the RUC investigation has told *The Times*. At least one comes from the vicinity of the town, Detective Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson said....Page 4

Meningitis alert

Pupils at a school where two teenagers died of meningitis after attending a Chistmas party were yesterday called in to receive antibiotics to prevent the disease spreading....Page 5

Scots ready for polls

In four months' time, Scots will go to the polls to change the way the country has been run for 292 years. They still cannot believe it is happening....Page 8

Falklands ultimatum

Ernest Bevin, then the Labour Foreign Secretary, formally warned Argentina to keep its hands off the Falkland Islands or risk war with Britain, documents released under the 50-year rule show....Page 10

Mafia war looms

The authorities in Sicily were braced for a new Mafia war yesterday after five gangsters sipping coffee at an underworld bar were shot and killed in the worst mob vendetta slaying of its kind for a decade....Page 11

Second Coming plot

Israeli police have arrested eight members of an American Christian cult for allegedly plotting extreme acts of violence in the hope of bringing about the Second Coming of Jesus....Page 12

Sharif escapes blast

Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, has narrowly escaped assassination. A bomb exploded under a bridge outside the Punjabi capital, Lahore, shortly before Mr Sharif and his family were to have driven over it on their way to his farmhouse at nearby Raiwind....Page 13

Fame is not all it's cracked up to be

A group of docusoap stars are accusing television producers of wrecking their lives after experiencing instant fame. Keith Cooper, who was director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House when he featured in *The House*, claims to have been damaged by the way he was portrayed in the 1996 BBC2 fly-on-the-wall documentary....Page 5

JOHN GILES / PA



Roads were blocked over the Pennines at the weekend as the spectacular scenery of the Peak District was transformed by heavy snowfalls

BUSINESS

Rate cuts: The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England meets this week to decide on whether to change British interest rates, which have tumbled during the autumn. The City, however, fears that the Bank may this month sit on its hands....Page 48

Retail gloom: January sees the High Street retailers coming clean on what sort of Christmas they had. Goldsmiths, the jewellers, are first into the ring today and are likely to talk of "pretty tough" trading conditions....Pages 45, 48

Taking control: GEC, the electronics company, has emerged as a front-runner to bid for the 51 per cent stake in the National Air Traffic Control Service, put up for sale by the Government....Page 48

Slim forever: Tired of believing that successful dieting is all about willpower? The author Dr Robert C. Atkins has devised a revolutionary diet that allows you to eat the food you enjoy. In the first extract, he explains how it works....Pages 14, 15

Crucial tool: Advertising shoots have always been famous for their lavish expenditure. They have not, however, always been anticipated with quite as much interest. Lisa Armstrong reports....Pages 16 17

4, 31, 33, 38, 41, 46 *Bonus:* 22
One ticket holder scooped £9.3 million on Saturday night.

Wrong move: The plan to humanise the concrete wilderness of the South Bank Centre, Britain's No 1 arts centre, is a mistake, says Marcus Binney....Page 18

Dance in Paris: While London celebrates the holiday season with *Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*, the French capital offers everything from designer Butoh to the Paris Opera Ballet dancing *Don Q*....Page 18

Scottish import: The Glaswegian playwright Liz Lochhead talks about the success of her play *Perfect Days*, now heading for London and the big screen....Page 19

Holiday music: The Johann Strauss Ensemble of Austria celebrates the new year at the Wigmore Hall, while the King's Consort ushers in 1999 with Purcell....Page 19

Football: Manchester United and Liverpool will meet in the fourth round of the FA Cup after winning their third-round matches yesterday....Pages 25, 27, 28, 29

Cricket: Shane Warne took a wicket in the first over of his long-awaited return to Test cricket, but it was his understudy, Stuart MacGill, who bowled Australia towards victory over England....Page 26

Rugby union: Wasps hopes of making ground on the leaders in the chase for the Allied Dunbar Premiership foundered....Page 32, 33

Bowls: The world indoor bowls championships, which begin today, have finally been given the venue they deserve with the International Bowls Arena at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk....Page 35

Sailing: Mike Golding has admitted that the damage which ruled his yacht, *Team Group 4*, out of the Alone Race occurred as a result of his own mistake....Page 36

Kofi Annan has brought renewed idealism and strengthened management to the United Nations since taking charge as Secretary General two years ago. But the UN's diplomatic credibility continues to erode, especially with regard to Iraq. He must learn from his mistakes on Iraq and work even harder in the next three years to create a leaner United Nations ready to meet the challenges of the new millennium.
The New York Times

Preview: Oliver Walston lifts the lid on farming, *Against the Grain* (BBC2, 7.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on the pubertal gags of Reeves and Mortimer....Pages 46, 47

Perilous petitions

For many parents with a child at state school, this year promises unrest, instability and dispute. The cause of this gloomy prophecy is the Government's policy to allow parents to petition, and then vote to abolish the 164 remaining grammar schools....Page 21

Democracy's tycoon

The pioneer who has helped millions to make the new world of the Internet their own is Jerry Yang, a Stanford University dropout who became a billionaire before he was 30....Page 21

Collection days

The beauty of *The Times's* Free Books for Schools scheme, launched today, is that, by encouraging children to enter now into the joy of reading, it may help to produce a generation of more literate, better educated young people in the future....Page 21

TIM HAMES

Labour inherited a constitution that was broken and did require fixing. During two decades of Tory rule the old order had been transformed....Page 20

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

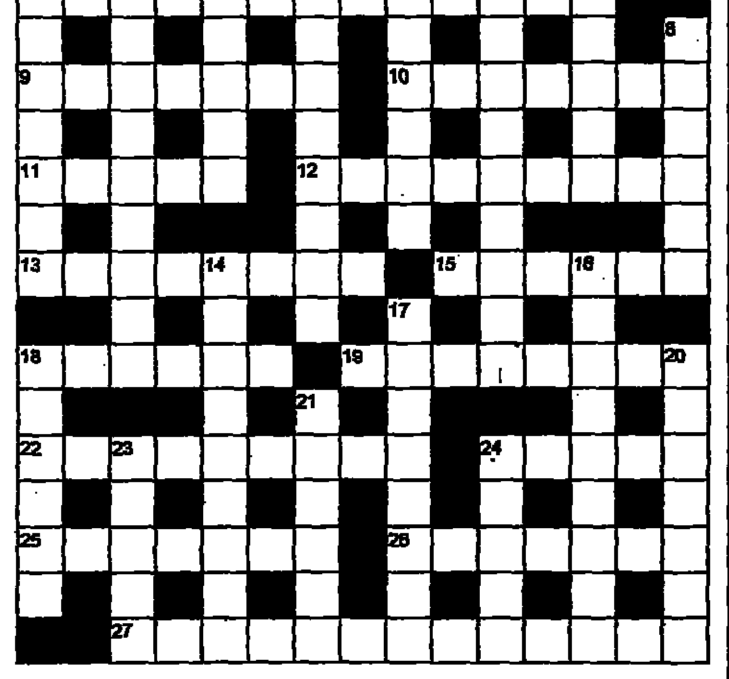
If one looks back on the truly great men of modern British history, only those who were born rich — and not all of them — seemed to have avoided financial embarrassment....Page 20

DERWENT MAY

Some critics regard Coward's plays as the best light comedies of the century. But for me, Joan Sutherland got it right. It is those petits chansons of his that live....Page 20

The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington, 1964-80; Professor Paul Hancock, geologist; Dr Henry Cockburn, former Medical Superintendent of St Mary's Hospital, London; Karl Denver, pop singer....Page 23

CPS strength; school holidays; baseball; election turnout; church and community....Page 21



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Lesley Garrett on why music in schools is not a luxury but a vital part of every child's life

■ LAW
Frances Gibb meets Dan Brennan, the new chairman of the Bar Council

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,991

ACROSS

1 Everything's OK, if you're Cratchit's nephew? (4,4,5).
9 Unrestrained tirade interrupted by a politician (7).
10 Take responsibility for a small charge (7).
11 Put an eccentric out of place (5).
12 Farcical author king makes crosser? (9).
13 During trial, top journalist gave evidence (8).
15 Literary savage whose child has positive qualities (6).
18 Prescription price adjusted to cover drug (6).
19 Monkey put next to tailless rodent (8).
22 Deposit frozen in a bank? (9).
24 Sounds like friendly greeting to girl one's spotted, perhaps (5).
25 After months in Paris, she produces wine (7).
26 Young fellow framing map of European region (7).
27 Suspension indelicate people, say, endure to the end (4,3,6).

DOWN

1 Make it as artist, concealing unpopular name in islands (7).
2 Grandiose clubs with a lot of money and wine (9).
3 The old way to conceal a rising agent (5).
4 Common way to refer to painting? (8).
5 Cheerful gesture made by director at end of bar (6).
6 Message from a British member taken by force (9).
7 Moderates improve a session, taking part (5).
8 Lie, say, in part of building (6).
14 Source of a fruit badly needed in South America? (9).
16 Underworld agent with appearance of total neglect (9).
17 Fortress's foundation incorporating boulder clay (8).
18 Reflective type upset over English summary (6).
20 Cobblers from East End walk in a funny way (7).
21 Uncommunicative, like bishop, initially, when in doubt? (6).
23 Old island accommodating a saint's resting-place (5).
24 Large animal taking fruit on river (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,990 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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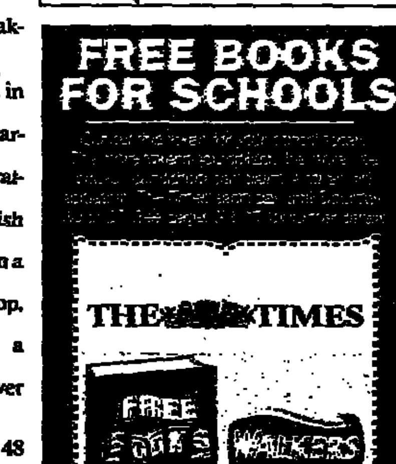
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.05 am — Sun sets: 4.05 pm
Moon sets: 9.31 am — Moon rises: 7.11 pm
Last quarter January 9
London 4.05 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 3.45 pm to 8.45 am
Edinburgh 3.23 pm to 9.12 am
Manchester 3.33 pm to 8.54 am
Penzance 4.03 pm to 8.51 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997





☐**General:** England and Wales will have sunny breaks and showers. Northern England and Northern Ireland will have gales. Heavy showers across Scotland.
☐**London, E Anglia:** rain then fresher with sunny spells. A strong southwest wind, later moderate. Max 13C (55F).
☐**SE England, Central S England, SW England:** mostly cloudy with rain at times. Wind strong, southwest. Max 14C (57F).
☐**E Midlands, E England, W Midlands:** sunny spells and scattered showers. A strong southwest wind. Max 14C (57F).
☐**Channel Islands:** dull, rain. Wind moderate to fresh, southwest. Max 13C (55F).
☐**S Wales:** sunny spells and showers. A fresh southwest wind. Max 11C (52F).
☐**N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** heavy showers. A strong to gale force southwest wind. Max 11C (52F).
☐**Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** heavy showers. A gale force southwest wind slowly easing. Max 8C (46F).
☐**Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** sunny spells and showers. A strong south to southwest wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐**Republic of Ireland:** sunny intervals, showers and gales. Max 10C (50F).
☐**Orkney, Shetland:** rain. A light to moderate and variable wind. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Outlook:** mild, cloudy, some rain.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

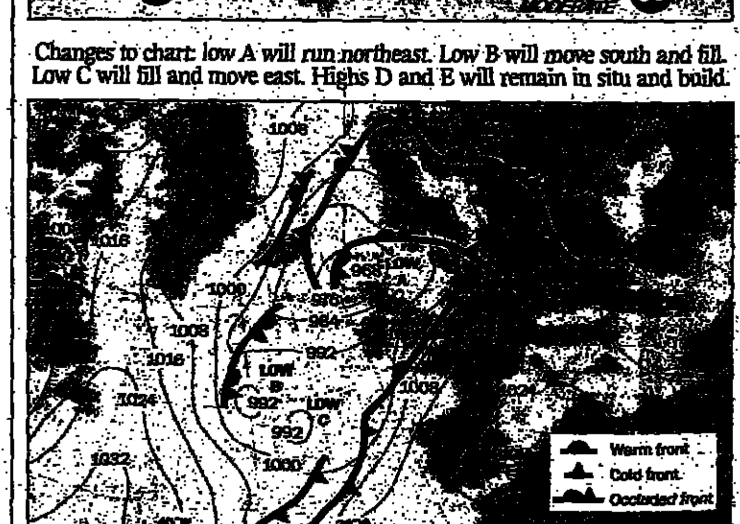
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	0.8	-	6	43	c	Kinloss	1.5	-	7	45	b
Anglesey	2.3	0.55	8	46	b	Leeds	1.8	0.16	7	45	r
Aspatria	0.9	0.01	7	45	b	Lerwick	1.6	0.28	7	45	r
Aviemore	1.3	0.17	5	41	r	Leuchars	1.9	0.01	7	45	b
Belfast	3.2	0.11	6	43	r	Littlehampton	3.5	0.25	11	52	sh
Birmingham	2.6	0.30	7	45	s	London	1.9	0.27	10	50	r
Bognor R	3.7	0.22	11	52	sh	Lowestoft	0.5	0.22	8	46	r
Bristol	3.7	0.35	10	50	s	Manchester	0.9	0.47	7	45	sl
Buxton	0.1	0.39	4	39	sn	Margate	2.4	0.16	11	52	r
Cardiff	2.5	0.50	9	48	b	Morecambe	2.0	0.20	7	45	r
Clacton	0.7	0.17	9	48	r	Newcastle	1.7	0.01	7	45	b
Cleethorpes	2.2	0.39	6	43	sl	Norwich	0.2	0.25	8	46	r
Colwyn Bay	2.6	0.33	8	46	b	Oxford	2.8	0.34	9	48	r
Cromer	0.1	0.21	7	45	r	Poole	2.5	0.49	11	52	b
Eastbourne	2.5	0.35	11	52	r	Prestatyn	1.6	0.50	7	45	b
Edinburgh	2.5	0.04	7	45	s	Ross on Wye	3.9	0.41	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	0.7	0.21	4	39	sh	Saunton Sands	1.7	0.22	9	48	b
Exmouth	2.4	0.44	9	48	s	Scarborough	1.1	0.06	5	41	r
Fishguard	2.0	0.28	7	45	g	Shrewsbury	2.6	0.21	7	45	r
Glasgow	1.8	0.22	8	46	sh	Skegness	1.4	0.39	5	41	r
Guernsey	2.1	0.30	11	52	sh	Southport	X	0.31	8	46	r
Hastings	2.4	0.52	11	52	r	Stornoway	1.8	0.46	7	45	r
Hayling I.	3.8	0.36	11	52	r	Swanage	4.6	0.28	10	50	s
Hove	1.7	0.30	11	52	c	Teignmouth	3.0	0.39	9	48	c
Hunstanton	0.8	0.11	6	43	c	Tenby	2.4	0.46	9	48	s
Isle of Man	3.2	0.05	8	46	c	Tiree	2.7	0.15	8	46	h
Isle of Wight	X	0.29	11	52	sh	Torquay	2.6	0.36	12	54	s
Jersey	2.1	0.17	11	52	r	Weymouth	3.5	0.29	11	52	c

Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.70in; highest sunshine: Swanage, Dorset, 4.6hr.

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Cologne	5	41	f	Madrid	7	45	s	Rome	15	59	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	C'phagn	1	34	c	Majorca	15	59	f	Salzburg	1	34	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Corfu	13	55	f	Malaga	12	54	s	S Frisco	9	48	s
Algiers	11	52	r	Dublin	9	48	f	Malta	17	63	f	Santiago	32	90	s
Amst'dm	7	45	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	c	Melbourne	22	72	s	Seoul	3	37	s
Athens	10	50	c	Faro	14	57	s	Mexico C	18	64	s	Singapore	29	84	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Florence	13	55	f	Miami	25	77	s	Stockholm	0	32	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	1	34	f	Milan	5	41	r	Strasb'rg	0	32	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Funchal	20	68	f	Montreal	-15	5	s	Sydney	24	75	c
Barcelona	12	54	f	Geneva	5	41	f	Moscow	-7	19	s	Tangier	14	57	f
Beirut	17	63	f	Gibraltar	13	55	s	Munich	3	37	fg	Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Belgrade	1	34	s	Helsinki	0	32	d	Nairobi	27	81	s	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	0	32	s	Hong K	20	68	t	Naples	14	57	c	Tokyo	8	46	s
Bermuda	22	72	s	Innsbruck	6	43	f	N Delhi	14	57	fg	Toronto	-16	3	s
Biarritz	11	52	f	Istanbul	9	48	s	N York	-3	27	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Bordeaux	13	55	s	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	12	54	c	Valencia	11	52	f
Brussels	11	52	s	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Oslo	0	32	fg	Vanc'ver	3	37	f
Budapest	-4	25	s	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	11	52	f	Venice	8	46	f
B Aires	29	84	s	Le Touqt	9	48	s	Perth	28	82	s	Vienna	-3	27	c
Beijing	3	37	s	Lisbon	13	55	s	Prague	-3	27	c	Warsaw	0	32	s
Cairo	20	68	c	Locarno	1	34	r	Reykjavik	2	36	s	Wash'ton	-1	30	s
Cape Tn	19	66	r	L Angeles	13	55	s	Rhodes	15	59	c	Wellngton	23	73	X
Chicago	-9	16	s	Luxembg	1	34	s	Rio de J	28	82	s	Zurich	-1	30	s
Ch'church	X			Luxor	21	70	s	Riyadh	27	81	s				

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday. X = not available

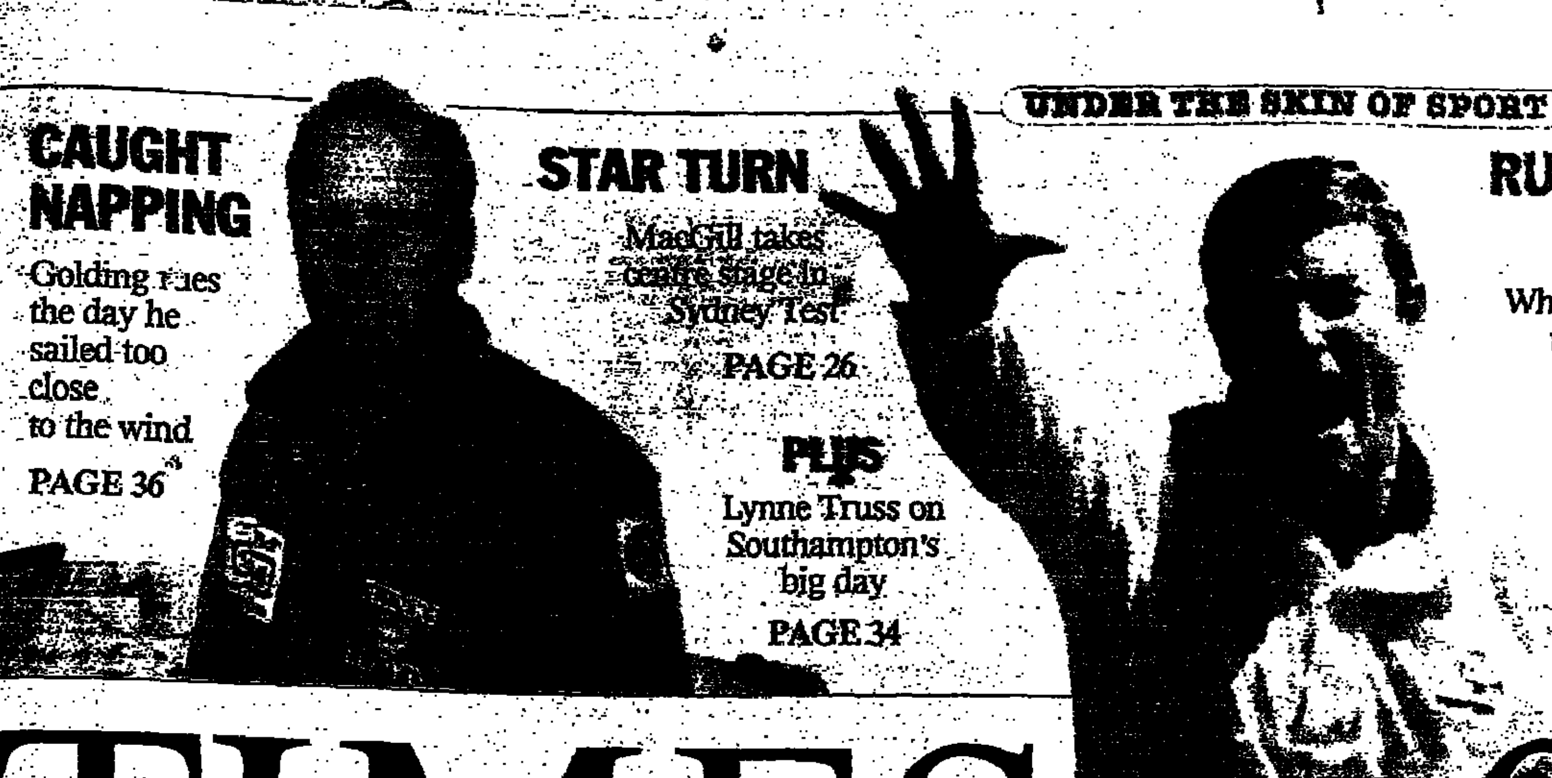
Changes to chart: low A will run northeast. Low B will move south and fill. Low C will fill and move east. Highs D and E will remain in situ and build.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:33	4.4	14:45	4.5	Liverpool	0:17	9.6	12:37	9.7
Avonmouth	8:33	13.7	21:00	13.4	London Bridge	3:03	7.2	15:25	7.4
Belfast	0:12	3.5	12:26	3.7	Lowestoft	10:57	2.5	23:01	2.7
Cardiff	8:19	12.6	20:46	12.4	Margate	1:07	4.8	13:35	4.9
Devonport	7:15	5.5	19:43	5.2	Milford Haven	7:34	7.2	19:58	6.9
Dover	0:03	6.8	12:21	6.7	Newquay	6:25	7.2	18:50	6.9
Dublin	0:39	4.3	12:58	4.4	Oban	6:55	4.2	19:30	3.9
Falmouth	6:46	5.3	19:14	5.0	Penzance	5:55	5.8	18:17	5.5
Greenock	1:50	3.4	13:45	3.8	Portland	8:18	2.3	20:51	2.0
Harwich	0:53	4.1	13:15	4.1	Portsmouth	0:21	4.7	12:34	4.8
Holyhead	11:41	6.9	-	-	Shoreham	0:17	6.4	12:28	6.3
Hull (Albert D)	7:38	8.7	19:51	8.9	Southampton	-	-	12:11	4.6
Ilfracombe	7:18	9.5	19:44	9.3	Swansea	7:36	12.6	19:58	12.2
King's Lynn	7:36	6.7	19:48	6.7	Tees	4:59	10.1	17:14	10.2
Leith	3:48	5.7	16:09	5.7	Walton-On-Naze	0:48	4.2	13:12	4.3

All times GMT. Heights in metres.





RUGBY'S NEW ORDER

Why Bath are failing the test of time

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TIMES SPORT

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MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

LIVERPOOL NEXT IN LINE FOR OLD TRAFFORD FA CUP TEST



Irwin sends Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, the wrong way to put Manchester United ahead and on course for an FA Cup fourth-round showdown with Liverpool. Photograph: Dan Chung

United secure spot prize

MANCHESTER UNITED 3 — 1 MIDDLESBROUGH

by Oliver Holt Football Correspondent

THE dread of a fixture-clogging replay and the prospect of Liverpool waiting for them in the next stage of the competition added a decisive urgency to Manchester United's finishing yesterday afternoon, when they came from behind to beat Middlesbrough and avoid their first FA Cup third-round exit for 15 years.

It took a fine goal from Andy Cole, a controversial penalty from Denis Irwin, a late finish from Ryan Giggs and all of United's resolve, tenacity and perseverance to cancel out an opening strike from Andy Townsend and take them past the team that had beaten them 3-2 at Old Trafford in the FA Carling Premiership a fortnight ago.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, accused Nicky Butt of diving over Neil Maddison's outstretched leg to win the 82nd-minute spot kick that effectively broke the visitors' resistance. Even Alex Ferguson, the United manager, described it as a "softish penalty", but insisted that Maddison had caught Butt below the knee with his tackle.

If United had to toil for their victory, though, if at times they seemed to be struggling for their rhythm, the manner in which they finally broke free from their shackles bodes ill for the rest of the Premiership and for Liverpool, who will have to travel to Old Trafford for the fourth-round meeting. United had won only once in eight matches before yesterday, but Ferguson said he saw signs that they were on the brink of rediscovering their best form.

"We have come through this terribly tough period of nine games in 31 days," he said. "We've had Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Leeds, Chelsea, Aston Villa. It makes me exhausted just talking about them. But we have had a bit of a breather now and we looked in good physical shape today. There was a freshness about them and it helps not having a replay to worry about.

"They were marvellous finishes and, with the possession we had, that's one of the best performances of the season. I thought the intensity of the passing, the movement and the energy we spent on the game was brilliant.

"It's a belter, it's fantastic," Ferguson said of the match against Liverpool. "There are some terrific ties in the next round, but Manchester United v Liverpool is always a big game."

After the doubts that were raised about United's commitment to the FA Cup last season, Ferguson was refreshingly unequivocal about his desire to win the competition this season, despite his side's continuing involvement in the European Cup and the approaching tie with Internazionale.

It will sound a death knell for the Cup when the big clubs start treating it with nonchalance and indifference, but Ferguson's renewed enthusiasm is likely to rejuvenate it and restore its kudos. The hyperbole that will surround the tie with Liverpool will not do it any harm, either.

For much of the game, though, it appeared that Liverpool would have to wait until next week to discover who their opponents would be as the match headed towards a replay. United, without the suspended David Beckham and Gary Neville, had started the brighter, but Middlesbrough's back three of Gary Pallister, Maddison and Colin Cooper worked tirelessly to contain the reunited partnership of Cole and Dwight Yorke.

United, too, looked immeasurably more solid in defence than on the last occasion when the teams met. Then, Hamilton Ricard and Brian Deane bullied the home defence into conceding three goals, but, yesterday, Jaap Stam in particular was the very model of indefatigability, looking at last like the immoveable object that United supporters had been expecting when he signed in the summer.

For all their pressure, though, for all the darting movement of Cole and Giggs, it was Middlesbrough who created the clearest opportunity of the first half. Gordon wriggled away from Giggs on the byline and pulled his cross to the near post, where Mustoe flung himself at it. His header went straight at Schmeichel, but it still took the United goalkeeper two attempts to grab it.

Middlesbrough's defending was a mix of the composed and the desperate. Twice, lunging blocks denied Keane and Irwin, and when Cole and Yorke missed two clear chances in quick succession at the start of the second half, both failing to beat Schwarzer when they were clean through, United's frustration grew.

They were punished for their wastefulness in the 52nd minute, when Deane outjumped Wes Brown to flick on Cooper's long free kick and Townsend rolled the loose ball across Schmeichel and into the corner of the United net.

It seemed then that they were heading for their first third-round exit since they lost to Bournemouth at Dean Court in 1984, but after Pallister had made a fine saving tackle to deny Butt, Giggs unlocked the Middlesbrough defence with a moment of perception in the 69th minute. Drifting inside from the right, he played a beautiful reverse pass to Cole, who spun away from Cooper and rifled his shot high past Schwarzer's left hand and into the roof of the net.

Middlesbrough, exhausted by their earlier labours, were helpless now as United poured forward and eight minutes from the end, Butt collected a weak defensive header on the edge of the Middlesbrough box and tempted Maddison into his rash challenge. Irwin, presented with United's second penalty of the season at Old Trafford, sent Schwarzer the wrong way with his kick.

It was deep in injury time when Giggs added the *coup de grâce*, exchanging passes with Solskjaer and slipping his shot through Schwarzer's legs. "Bring on the Scousers," the United supporters sang as they headed for the exits.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — W Brown (sub: P Neville, 75min), H Berg, J Stam, D Irwin — R Giggs, R Keane, N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub: O G Solskjaer, 72) — A Cole (sub: E Sheringham, 84), D Yorke.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, N Maddison, G Pallister — C Fleming, P Gascoigne (sub: M Beck, 75), R Mustoe (sub: P Stamp, 62), A Townsend, D Gordon — B Deane, H Ricard

Referee: G Barber

Cup trail, pages 27-29
Times past, page 28
Old Firm battle, page 31

Draw takes shine off Diamonds

RUSHDEN and Diamonds and Yeovil Town, the two remaining non-league sides in the FA Cup, received disappointing fourth-round draws yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). If they manage to win replays against Leeds United and Cardiff City respectively, Rushden will have an away tie against Portsmouth while Yeovil will have to travel to Sheffield United or Notts County.

Brian Talbot, the Rushden manager, preferred to concentrate on the rematch with Leeds at Elland Road next week. "What will be, will be," he said. "I'm only thinking of the Leeds game. There's no point in thinking any further ahead than that."

Swansea City, one of only three Nationwide League third division clubs left in the competition, have the incentive of playing Derby County at home if they beat West Ham United, another FA Carling Premiership club, in a replay at Vetch Field. Leyton Orient, also from the third division, play away to Bristol Rovers, of the second division, after defeating Brighton, Kingstonian and Southport in the previous rounds.

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

Sheff Wednesday or Norwich City v Stockport County
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Preston North End or Arsenal
Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient
Wrexham v Huddersfield Town
Portsmouth v Rushden & Diamonds or Leeds United
Oxford United v Chelsea
Sheff United or Notts County v Cardiff City or Yeovil Town
Swindon Town or Barnsley v Bournemouth
Newcastle United v Bradford City
Leicester City v Coventry City
Aston Villa v Southampton or Fulham
Blackburn Rovers v Sunderland
West Ham United or Swansea City v Derby County
Manchester Utd v Liverpool
Wimbledon v Tottenham Hotspur
Everton v Ipswich Town

Ties to be played weekend of January 23

CRICKET

England on the ropes as MacGill turns screw

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (second day of five; Australia won toss): Australia, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 115 runs ahead of England

THE first day in Sydney had ended like the last in Melbourne, with Englishmen beaming and bellowing and punching the air, Darren Gough's ecstasy the indelible impression. The difference, this time, was that England had won nothing bar the chance to stay in the game, a chance their batsmen were yesterday unable to hold.

On the arid wasteland of this spin-friendly pitch, England could ill afford any first-innings deficit, let alone one as formidable as 102. They did not subside spinelessly but they did suffer familiarly soft dismissals. That four of the top six passed 20 and none reached 50 will also infuriate the management, but, in hindsight, their chance of a victory to square the series may be seen to have expired as soon as Alec Stewart lost the toss.

Stewart has not had a happy weekend. His captaincy on Saturday was baffling, his fielding sloppy and distracted. Then, yesterday, he was out carelessly for just three, the sort of start to daunt and deflate an England side missing the accomplished defiance of Michael Atherton.

When Shane Warne followed the scripts of old by taking a wicket in his first over, the day seemed made for another chapter in his personal soap opera. Instead, the comeback kid had to support and applaud as England were bowled out by the man initially chosen simply to keep his seat warm. Warne did not bowl badly, but his partner in leg-spin bowled better.

Stuart MacGill has had to endure comparisons and condescension as understudy to the maestro but his wicket-taking record suggested he would not return meekly to the ranks whenever Warne felt ready to resume. Yesterday, he proved the point with the best figures of his brief Test career.

MacGill turned the ball more lavishly than Warne and had the confidence to bowl a googly, a delivery his senior partner did not attempt once in 20 overs. MacGill, indeed, took the second of his five wickets with a third consecutive googly to Alex Tudor, the mark of a man who feels on top of his game.

The last four wickets fell to MacGill in as many overs but this was not so much the usual, destructive England collapse as something inevitable, delayed with desperation. This pitch is no place to be facing three spin bowlers, each with their own qualities, and if the fourth-innings target exceeds 300, as last night seemed likely, the prospects of another English celebration are remote. There have been only seven draws in 50 Ashes Tests on this ground and the weather will have to break dramatically to produce an eighth.

On the opening day, England had battled the odds with considerable valour. Forced into one late change by Atherton's deteriorating back and choosing, obscurely, to do without their most effective defensive bowler, Alan Mullally, they might have had a fruitless day in the field while the pitch was at its best.

Despite some early incisions by Dean Headley, whose series is ending on a remarkable high, this remained probable so long as the Waugh twins were together in a stand that produced only 30 runs fewer than England's entire innings. Yet in the evening session, with Mark Waugh past 100 and Steve lost in the 90s for a record ninth time, the wounded lion found its voice again.

Gough's hat-trick, the first by an Englishman in Ashes cricket for 100 years, gave the day a spectacular finale and sent the thousands of travelling supporters back to their hotels in high spirits. However, the unemotional among them will have recognised that Australia's 322, though short of their optimum, still represented an enviable platform.

Expecting the unexpected is all that sustains the England cricket follower, however, and there was an electricity amid the airlessness of a humid second morning. Unlike Saturday, when thousands were locked out as Sydney closed its gates on a Test day for the first time in 23 years, the ground was not quite full, but it was still a sight to mock all those who have been forecasting the demise of Test cricket.

Stewart will rightly have instructed his batsmen to be positive but he set an unfortunate example with the loose drive that donated a 200th Test wicket to Glenn McGrath.

Mark Butcher played with fluency through most of the morning and greeted Warne by swinging his second ball disrespectfully over mid-wicket. Two balls later, deceived in flight and playing awkwardly across a leg break, he was out leg-before, a decision Warne prejudged by sprinting down the pitch with arm pointing triumphantly to the skies.

There was a need, now, for England's two form players to bat long into the afternoon. Nasser Hussain looked intent, his nose over every ball, his bat showing none of the open-faced vulnerability of old, but Mark Ramprakash played one of the most disappointing strokes of the day, driving a good length ball from McGrath straight to mid-off.

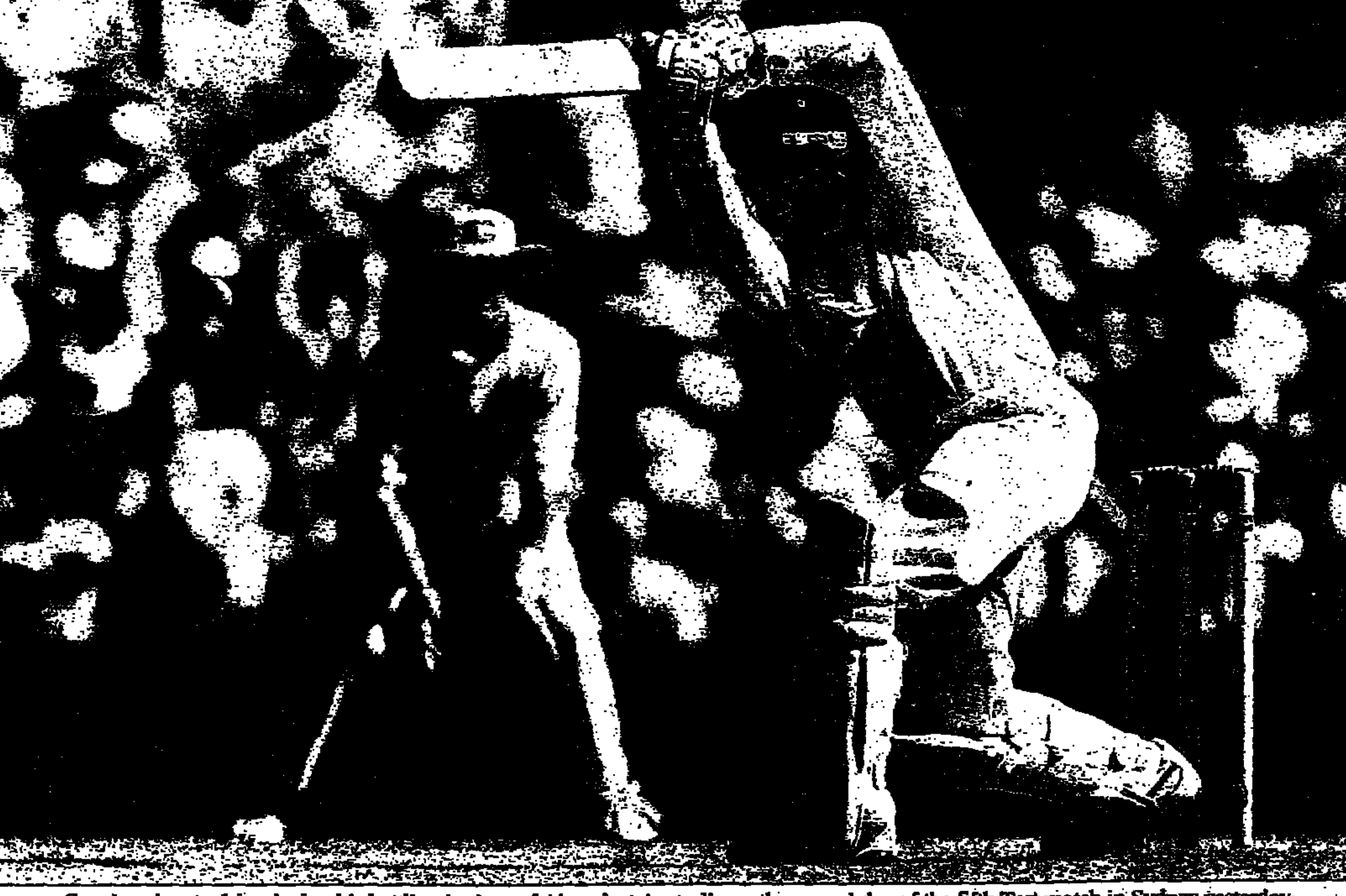
The fourth wicket produced 49 and Graeme Hick hinted, once again, that he was about to play a commanding and influential innings. It was not be though as he succumbed to a ball that should have been hit for four — a long-hop from MacGill that turned so much it took the toe-end of the bat to short extra cover.

Hussain followed in the next over, a deserved wicket for the probing Colin Miller. For Hussain, it was another frustration, his sixth score in the series above 40 without once going on to 100.

John Crawley also played with flair, making almost all his 44 runs against the spin on the leg side. Warren Hegg kept him company for 14 overs, Tudor for another 11, but England were always swimming against a treacherous tide and once MacGill had bamboozled Tudor their defences were down.

Crawley, his bat for once coming down crookedly, was taken at slip and as MacGill mopped up with relish, Australia even had the luxury of seven overs in which to increase their lead.

BEN CURTIS



Crawley aims to drive during his battling innings of 44 against Australia on the second day of the fifth Test match in Sydney yesterday

IAN WALDIE

Hat-trick hero: Gough dismisses Healy, MacGill and Miller with successive balls

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Hick b Headley (13min, 8 balls)	2
M J Slater c Hegg b Headley (62min, 35 balls, 2 fours)	18
J L Langer c Ramprakash b Tudor (54min, 39 balls, 2 fours)	26
M E Waugh c Hegg b Headley (294min, 205 balls, 10 fours)	121
S R Waugh b Such (201min, 171 balls, 10 fours)	96
D S Lehmann c Hussain b Tudor (44min, 37 balls, 5 fours)	32
†I A Healy c Hegg b Gough (48min, 28 balls, 1 four)	14
S K Warne not out (14min, 7 balls)	2
S C G MacGill b Gough (2min, 1 ball)	0
C R Miller b Gough (1min, 1 ball)	0
G D McGrath c Hick b Headley (2min, 2 balls)	0
Extras (lb 2, nb 9)	11
Total (87.3 overs, 373min)	322

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 (Slater 1), 2-52 (Langer 26), 3-52 (M E Waugh 0), 4-242 (M E Waugh 91), 5-284 (M E Waugh 101), 6-319 (Healy 14), 7-321 (Warne 1), 8-321 (Warne 1), 9-321 (Warne 1).

BOWLING: Gough 17-4-61-3 (5 fours; 5-2-9-0, 7-1-31-0, 2-0-12-0, 3-1-9-3). Headley 19.3-3-62-4 (nb 1, 6 fours; 4-0-17-1, 5-1-23-1, 3-0-11-0, 5-1-9-0, 2.3-1-2-2). Tudor 12-1-64-2 (nb 8, 6 fours; 4-0-29-1, 4-1-17-0, 4-0-18-1). Such 24-6-77-1 (3 fours; 5-3-10-0, 7-2-27-0, 3-0-12-0, 6-1-15-1, 3-0-12-0). Ramprakash 15-0-56-0 (4 fours, one spell).

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 101-3 (28 overs, 120min; M E Waugh 28, S R Waugh 22). Tea: 214-3 (58 overs, 242 min; M E Waugh 78, S R Waugh 81). Second new ball taken at 5.48pm—310-5 (82.4 overs). All out at 6.12pm—stumps.

Second Innings

M J Slater not out (27min, 20 balls, 1 four)	11
*M A Taylor not out (27min, 22 balls)	2
Extras	0
Total (no wkt, 7 overs, 27 min)	13

BOWLING (one spell each): Headley 2-1-4-0 (1 four). Gough 3-1-3-0. Such 2-0-6-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

M A Butcher lbw b Warne (90min, 70 balls, 4 fours)	36
*A J Stewart c Warne b McGrath (28min, 17 balls)	3
N Hussain c M E Waugh b Miller (174min, 126 balls, 4 fours)	42
M R Ramprakash c MacGill b McGrath (52min, 42 balls, 1 four)	14
G A Hick c Warne b MacGill (55min, 38 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)	23
J P Crawley c Taylor b MacGill (116min, 75 balls, 5 fours)	44
†W K Hegg b Miller (52min, 50 balls)	15
A J Tudor b MacGill (43min, 40 balls, 2 fours)	14
D W Headley c McGrath b MacGill (25min, 20 balls, 1 four)	8
D Gough lbw b MacGill (2min, 2 balls)	0
P M Such not out (6min, 4 balls)	0
Extras (b 8, lb 8, w 1, nb 4)	21
Total (80.1 overs, 327min)	220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18 (Butcher 13), 2-65 (Hussain 8), 3-88 (Hussain 26), 4-137 (Hussain 42), 5-138 (Crawley 2), 6-171 (Crawley 19), 7-204 (Crawley 38), 8-213 (Headley 1), 9-213 (Headley 1).

BOWLING: McGrath 17-7-35-2 (nb 3, 3 fours; 6-3-8-1, 7-3-12-1, 4-1-15-0); Miller 23-6-45-2 (3 fours; 10-2-30-0, 13-4-15-2); MacGill 20.1-2-57-5 (w 1, 7 fours; 7-0-18-0, 7-1-28-1, 6.1-1-11-4); Warne 20-4-67-1 (nb 1, 1 six, 7 fours; 11-2-35-1, 3-1-5-0, 6-1-27-0).

SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 82-2 (30 overs, 123min; Hussain 22, Ramprakash 12). Tea: 161-5 (60 overs, 243min; Crawley 16, Hegg 8). All out at 5.25pm.

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and D B Hair. Third umpire: S J Taufel. Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).

SERIES DETAILS: First (Brisbane): Match drawn. Second (Perth): Australia won by seven wickets. Third (Adelaide): Australia won by 205 runs. Fourth (Melbourne): England won by 12 runs.

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

ENGLAND'S TEST HAT-TRICKS

W Bates v Australia, Melbourne	1882-83
J Briggs v Australia, Sydney	1891-92
G A Lohmann v SA, Port Elizabeth	1895-96
J T Hearne v Australia, Headingley	1899
M J C Allom v NZ, Christchurch	1929-30
T W J Goddard v SA, Johannesburg	1938-39
P J Loader v West Indies, Headingley	1957
D G Cork v West Indies, Old Trafford	1995
D Gough v Australia, Sydney	1998-99

India in trouble despite Dravid's defiance

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HAMILTON (second day of five; India won toss): India, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 170 runs behind New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND held a strong grip on India after the second day of the third Test yesterday, despite a superb unbeaten 93 from Rahul Dravid. India ended the day at 196 for five in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 366.

Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja, the India openers, who have proved easy prey for the New Zealand attack so far in this series, again exposed the middle order early, leaving the India innings teetering at 17 for two.

Sidhu was out to Chris Cairns in his second over, caught at the wicket after a cramped attempt at a square cut. Jadeja, who had seemed bent on attack and hit four boundaries, offered a simple catch to mid-off after a slower ball from Simon Doull.

But the testing situation did not daunt Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar, who compiled 67 before being trapped leg-before by Dion Nash. Tendulkar attacked the bowling with his customary ferocity. Dravid was more circumspect but pounced on full-length balls or anything short outside the off stump.

The pair added 62 in 19 overs before tea and once the partnership reached a hundred, Tendulkar launched into Craig McMillan and Nash, hitting three boundaries in two overs, but he was dismissed soon afterwards.

Having survived a confident appeal from Nash, Tendulkar had his pads thumped again off the next ball and this time the umpire offered no reprieve. Dravid, on 39 at the time, added 54 in the remaining 80 minutes of play, but two wickets fell at the other end. Doull's slower ball did the damage on both occasions, defeating Sourav Ganguly before finding the edge of Mohammad Azharuddin's bat.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand, who had resumed at 283 for five, were bowled out ten minutes after lunch. Javagal Srinath, wicketless in the morning session, took the last two wickets in consecutive overs to finish with five for 95, his third five-wicket haul in an innings in his 35th Test.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

M D Bell c Mongia b Srinath	0
M J Horne b Srinath	63
*S P Fleming c Dravid b Srinath	0
R G Twose c Mongia b Prasad	87
C D McMillan c Prasad b Kumble	92
†A C Parore c sub b Prasad	21
P J Wiseman c Ganguly b Singh	13
C L Cairns b Singh	2
D J Nash not out	18
D L Vettori b Srinath	24
S B Doull c Kumble b Srinath	6
Extras (b 5, lb 19, nb 14, w 2)	40
Total	366

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-95, 4-255, 5-278, 6-311, 7-314, 8-315, 9-356.

BOWLING: Srinath 32.2-10-95-5; Prasad 33-10-61-2; Kumble 27-7-84-1; Singh 21-5-74-2; Ganguly 5-3-25-0; Tendulkar 3-0-23-0

INDIA: First innings

N S Sidhu c Parore b Cairns	1
A D Jadeja c Nash b Doull	12
R S Dravid not out	93
S R Tendulkar lbw b Nash	67
S C Ganguly c Fleming b Doull	11
*M Azharuddin c Fleming b Cairns	4
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 4, nb 2)	8
Total (5 wkts)	196

†N R Mongia, A Kumble, J Srinath, B K V Prasad and R Singh to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-17, 3-126, 4-164, 5-195.

BOWLING: Doull 15-6-29-2; Cairns 10-3-54-2 (nb 1, w 4); Nash 16-6-35-1; Vettori 13-2-63-0; McMillan 2-0-13-0

Umpires: R Koertzen (South Africa) and D B Cowie.

☐ The Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed Wasim Akram captain of Pakistan for the tour of India and the World Cup in England later this year. Pakistan will play three Tests and three one-day internationals in India during a ten-week tour starting later this month.

Warne finds ample reward playing second fiddle

Michael Henderson watches as Australia's spinning maestro finally returns to the Test match stage

The sorcerer and his apprentice went to work during England's first innings, and the pupil finally bested his master. Shane Warne's return to Test match cricket was greeted with a roar, if one ignores the highly predictable dissent from the English corner, but the spectators went home admiring Stuart MacGill, who was the flummoxer-in-chief on a day Australia made sure England would not draw this series.

It was a glorious day of achievement for the crowd of 38,000 and their favourite New South Welshmen. McGrath took his 200th Test wicket, Mark Waugh pocketed his hundredth catch, Taylor equalled Allan Border's catching record of 156 and MacGill returned his best bowling performance. Warne had to go a bit to trump all that and he did his best, snaffling two good catches and taking a wicket with his fourth ball. But on this day he had to bend the knee to the other chap.

MacGill will never rival him, of course. Nobody ever could. Warne is the wonder of the age, MacGill a wrist spinner of some talent who has run into a bit of form against batsmen who sniff the turning ball as if it was a primed grenade. The pitch gave him every assistance. This was a feast day for the twirlymen and MacGill took his place at the table, ate freely, supped his fill, belched and went to bed a happy man.

At the start of the day the overwhelming question was: to whom would Taylor turn first? Would he summon Warne with a dramatic flourish, or would he stick with MacGill? It was MacGill he preferred, handing him the ball after a dozen overs in which time Warne had already been active, holding a sharp slip catch.

Warne had to wait a further nine overs for his chance and, after Butcher carted him away to the mid-wicket boundary, he was avenged when the opener missed a ball that turned, as leg breaks do. There was no trickery. It was a soft dismissal that did nothing to diminish Warne's reputation as a man with a golden arm. As Australians hooted their approval the several thousand Englishmen settled back to expect the worst.

It never came to pass. Warne bowled steadily, but it was as a catcher that he made his only other contribution to the innings, falling to his left at short extra cover to intercept Hick's poorly executed back-foot drive. This is the way with great players. Short of trussing them up in the dressing-room there is no way of keeping them out of the game for long.

Warne gave the impression of having a splendid time, though it must be hard to keep up appearances when your name is repeatedly taken in vain, as it was by the English element. The Barmy Army can be relied upon to lower the tone of any gathering, and their lavatorial humour, relentless and immensely loud, bore no trace of wit. Warne grinned through it all, and left his team-mates to supply an appropriate answer.

Not the least satisfying pleasure of the day was Taylor's handling of his team. Waddling from end to end in the easy-mannered way that disguises the certainty of his judgement, he appeared to have the whole field covered. Crawley was kind enough to offer him an easy slip catch late in the afternoon and it is worth considering how superbly he has fielded in that position now that he stands on the threshold of another world record.

Healy, standing to his left, has taken 351 catches, more than any other wicketkeeper. To his right, either at second slip or silly point, where he caught Hussain, Mark Waugh has now held a straight 100. That means the three of them have caught 607 batsmen, the most productive close-catching alliance in Test cricket. Bowlers can sleep soundly knowing that such expertise is at hand.

Taylor shouldn't have to wait long to claim that record. The way MacGill was turning the ball suggests that batting will be extremely difficult on the last two days. He pitched short every now and again, giving the batsmen a free hit, and occasionally bowled it too full, offering full tosses, but he can't half rip the ball. West Indies, who entertain Australia this spring, must be quaking in their boots at the prospect of facing two wrist spinners, especially when Warne has regained full match fitness.

As for England, there was too much indifferent batting. A particular pity was Ramprakash, who began confidently and departed to a weak shot, though Taylor had posted his fielder in the right spot, between extra cover and mid-off. There was one unexpected bright moment. Tudor, who played with good sense and a straight bat, offered one of the strokes of the day when he drove Warne past mid-off for four. Perhaps England have unearthed an all-rounder!

Donald leaves West Indies begging for mercy

FROM IVO TENNANT IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (second day of five; South Africa won toss): West Indies, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 317 runs behind South Africa

FOR THE umpteenth time this winter, West Indies find themselves in dire trouble. Already 3-0 down, they lost their first four wickets for 34 in excellent conditions before Carl Hooper played his first decent innings of the series. This in response to South Africa's total of 406 for eight, of which Daryll Cullinan's 168 was the highest Test score of his career.

The important wicket, as ever for South Africa, was that of Brian Lara. He came in with his side ten for two and, as throughout this series, greatly in need of a fillip. Murray had gone in Donald's first over, caught behind by Boucher off an inside edge, and Wallace had edged a ball that lifted sharply on him to first slip. This was splendidly aggressive new-ball bowling.

Generously received, Lara swung Donald to the mid-wicket boundary, missed another attempted pull and then, looking to scotch a further short ball on the back foot, knocked his bails off with his right boot. Donald, having taken three for 13 in five overs, departed at this point with a strained left hamstring, but no matter. His work was done for the day.

When Chanderpaul went, checking a drive off Terbrugge, West Indies were in serious trouble. They have never lost a series 5-0 — not yet — but will do well to avoid that now. The difference between these two sides is not so much to do with what is going on in the middle as in the head.

South Africa declared at tea, reckoning that even on this true pitch, a total of little more than 400 was quite enough against these opponents. Cullinan and Kallis each batted for more than seven hours, the former striking the ball as freely as he ever has in Test cricket. His partner was never quite in such assured touch.

They put on 235 and neither gave a chance, although they were fortunate that Walsh was injured and that Ambrose departed with knee trouble after some exemplary spells.

Cullinan's previous highest score was an unbeaten 153 against India in 1996-7.

During the tea interval, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) unveiled its latest scheme to bring black and coloured cricketers to the fore in a grandly titled "Pledge to the Nation".

It has been forced to do so by continual criticism from the Government. Steve Tshwete, the Minister of Sport, said that he was withholding his support of his country in this Test match because the selectors had not picked enough black players.

"I am worried we will be sending white teams to the rugby and cricket World Cups this year, in which case it will be difficult for me to support them," he said.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the UCB, countered that it would have been demeaning to West Indies and unfair to sponsors to have picked a below-strength side. From next month, however, all provinces will have to include players of colour in all competitions.

The UCB has set up a monitoring committee that will have the authority to overturn decisions taken by the selectors. Hence if it feels that they have not included enough black or coloured players in the Test side, it can override the selections and tell the likes of Peter Pollock and Mike Procter [both selectors] that they must think again.

"Our historic and moral duty is to ensure that South African cricket grows and flourishes among the truly disadvantaged of our society, with the recognition that the majority of disadvantaged people come from our black communities," Bacher said. "This involves a commitment to promote and develop cricket amongst black African people at all levels of the game."

SCOREBOARD FROM CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten c Jacobs b Ambrose	0
H H Gibbs c Wallace b Dillon	42
J H Kallis c Jacobs b Gibson	110
D J Cullinan c Jacobs b McLean	168
*W J Cronje c Jacobs b McLean	0
J N Rhodes b Hooper	34
S M Pollock c Lara b Dillon	9
† M V Boucher not out	15
A A Donald c Wallace b Dillon	0
D J Terbrugge not out	4
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 20)	24
Total (8 wkts dec)	406

P R Adams did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-74, 3-309, 4-312, 5-376, 6-380, 7-397, 8-397.

BOWLING: Ambrose 24.1-7-49-1; McLean 25.5-6-78-2; Gibson 30-4-92-1; Dillon 33.5-6-99-3; Hooper 27-6-60-1; Chanderpaul 6-0-27-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

P A Wallace c Cullinan b Donald	8
J R Murray c Boucher b Donald	0
S Chanderpaul c Rhodes b Terbrugge	6
*B C Lara hit wicket b Donald	4
C L Hooper not out	53
D Ganga not out	16
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (4 wkts)	89

† R D Jacobs, O D Gibson, M Dillon, N A M McLean and C E L Ambrose to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-14, 4-34

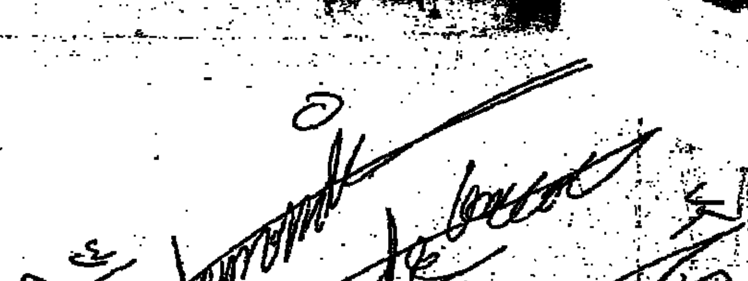
BOWLING: Donald 5-1-13-3; Pollock 10-6-16-0; Terbrugge 7-2-13-1; Kallis 6-2-21-0; Adams 5-0-24-0

Umpires: S Venkataraghavan (India) and D L Orchard.

AP



Cullinan flicks a ball off his legs on his way to making a career-best Test score of 168 in Cape Town yesterday



FA Cup: England striker's penalty helps put Port Vale firmly in their place

Owen proves spot on for Liverpool

Port Vale	0
Liverpool	3

By Matt Dickinson

ANY misgivings at having to change in a Portakabin were dispelled for Michael Owen yesterday when he found the Port Vale defence as rudimentary as the temporary dressing-room. The Liverpool forward left scorch marks in the Potteries as his pace burned off Vale's despairing markers.

The England international scored the opening goal of this FA Cup third-round tie after 33 minutes and, thereafter, his side were able to coast through the remaining hour — a luxury they are unlikely to afford against Manchester United in the next round. Further goals by Paul Ince and Robbie Fowler wrapped things up neatly.

Genuine Diamonds 29

Owen's strike from the penalty spot was another milestone in his phenomenal career, coming on his debut in the competition just as he had marked his first games in the FA Carling Premiership, League Cup and Europe with goals. It was not, though, a spot-kick without controversy.

Owen himself won the penalty when he tumbled over the thigh of Dave Barnett, but the decision of Rob Harris, the referee, enraged the Burslem locals. Apart, of course, from the gaggle of shrieking schoolgirls who mobbed the Liverpool team coach in the hope of a glimpse of their idol behind the tinted glass. To the rest it was a blatant case of diving.

Those supporters who did yell "cheat" at the 19-year-old were presumably the same ones who delighted in his tumble to the ground against Argentina in the World Cup in similar circumstances, and Barnett, despite his disappointment, kept his perspective.

"I half-pulled out of the tackle but Owen used my body," the defender said. "He's good at that, and he will get quite a few penalties in his career because of his pace and agility."

It was a candid appraisal from a centre half who might have been tempted to shift the blame. Owen can hardly be blamed for knocking the ball past slower opponents and flicking on the turbo to clatter into them. Provided he is not seeking to tumble where there is no contact, defenders like Barnett can hardly complain.

Apart from Owen's darting performance, which induced bookings for both Barnett and the hapless Paul Beesley, there was little else for Gerard Houllier to savour as his side recorded their fourth victory in succession. "We were very professional and never underestimated them," the Liverpool manager said, but nor did they play with any great style or vigour against a team from the Nationwide League first division who had secured just four points from their previous 11 League matches.

John Rudge had proved pleny of times in the past that he can transform his lower league players into titans for a day, as victories against Tottenham Hotspur, Everton and Southampton had shown in recent seasons. Acknowledging that fact, as well as Liverpool's propensity for abject collapses, the television cameras were at Vale Park to capture the visitors' embarassment.

Perhaps it was the absence of five players through injury and illness, or maybe that the Port Vale manager has not the resources of yesteryear, but no such heroics ever looked likely. They had to beat, or at least rattle Liverpool's suspect defence, but they opted, instead, to duplicate their Premiership opponents' wing-back formation and their steady pace.



IAN HODGSON

Owen slots home the 33rd-minute penalty that opened the door for Liverpool at Vale Park yesterday

"The last thing you want is a free flowing game against a team like Liverpool," Rudge said, but a more gung ho approach might have unsettled a rearguard that can always be expected to creak under pressure. Only for a 15 minute spell after half-time, when Tony Naylor broke clear but was thwarted by Phil Babb, did the Anfield defence look, briefly, suspect.

By then, Liverpool had already been allowed to cruise into a two-goal lead, the penalty by Owen followed five minutes later when a free kick by Patrik Berger from wide on the left was diverted from Phil Babb to Ince for a simple headed finish.

Vale offered far more threat to James's goal in the second half, but, inevitably for a side that has conceded 50 goals in the Nationwide League first division, there were bound to be spaces left at the back.

Robbie Fowler only played for the last half-hour in place of Riedle, but he could easily have had a hat-trick, twice hitting the side-netting before finally shooting past Kevin Pilkington. The provider, inevitably, was Owen.

PORT VALE (3-5-2): K Pilkington — N Aspin, D Barnett, P Beesley (sub: C Horlaville, 70 min) — M Welsh, N Brisco (sub: G O'Callaghan, 87), I Bogie, A Tankard, B McGinchey (sub: W Corden, 23) — T Naylor, P Beadle.
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Carragher, S Staunton, P Babb — J McAteer, J Redknapp, P Ince, P Berger, S Bjornebye (sub: S Harkness, 69) — K Riedle (sub: R Fowler, 60), M Owen.
Referee: R Harris.

Humphreys confirms class divide

Sheffield Wednesday	4
Norwich City	1

By Richard Hobson

THE growing superiority of the FA Carling Premiership over their poorer Nationwide League brethren was confirmed again yesterday as Sheffield Wednesday progressed into the FA Cup fourth round with minimal difficulty. Ritchie Humphreys scored his first goals for nearly two years as they eased to their biggest win of the season against a Norwich City side who failed to impose themselves.

It means that the Premiership has triumphed in six of the seven ties pitting in direct opposition teams from the top two divisions of the overall pyramid. Nottingham Forest were the one side to perish, and their status in the top flight must be regarded as temporary. If Wednesday beat Stockport County in the fourth round — as they should, given home advantage — then they will reach the last 16 for just the second time since 1993, when they lost to Arsenal in the final.

The fact that the draw had been made during this contest angered both managers. Bruce Rioch, of Norwich, said that it "belittled the competition" while Danny Wilson, his counterpart at Wednesday, was even more scathing. "It shows disrespect to the clubs," Wilson said. "I cannot believe it was allowed. I think it is a case of the television companies trying to put one over on each other. I became aware of the draw at the start of the second half when people in the crowd kept shouting it out. But I didn't want the players to know in case they lost concentration."

Officials must hope for a much improved crowd at Hillsborough for the Stockport visit. The attendance of 18,737, swelled by a hearty travelling contingent, represented the second lowest of the season. Only a Worthington Cup tie against Cambridge United attracted fewer; so much for the magic of the Cup. Such was the subdued atmosphere at three o'clock it was almost worth checking that the kick-off had not been delayed.

Norwich began with greater urgency as Roberts forced a fine block tackle from Thome and Eadie prompted a save at the near post by Srnicek. However, their reliance on the offside trap courted danger and after straying the wrong side of the last man on two occasions Humphreys breached the line of defenders to give Wednesday the lead in the 18th minute. Exchanging passes with Carbone, he slotted a low shot under the dive of Watt.

Carbone, with his light touch and low centre of gravity, was too much for the visitors. Fifteen minutes later his cross from the right created a second goal for Humphreys, who accepted the chance at the third opportunity. Watt palmed away the first headed effort and Jackson recovered his position swiftly to stop the second, but with two bodies prostrate Humphreys now had an easy task.

When Humphreys nudged a long, diagonal pass by Hinchcliffe into the path of Rudi, who rounded the goalkeeper to extend the lead five minutes before half-time, it seemed a question of the extent of the success. Even though Roberts retrieved a goal just before the break — a glancing header at the near post from a corner by Adams



Rudi: scored third goal

— Wilson still felt sufficiently confident to withdraw Jonk as a precaution.

Sonner added aggression to the midfield and might have scored after 67 minutes when Rudi and Alexandersson combined to put him through. Watt saved from point-blank range, but the fourth goal duly arrived six minutes later. Hinchcliffe delivered a perfect, in swinging corner from the right, which Stefanovic bundled in.

"We did well in our own way," Rioch said, "but it is a sign of the capability of international-class players that they punish you when you make errors. You have to defend properly against them."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): P Srnicek — E Thome (sub: L Briscoe, 77min), D Walker, D Stefanovic — N Alexandersson, W Jonk (sub: D Sonner, 46), P Atherton, P Rudi, A Hinchcliffe — R Humphreys, B Carbone.
NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): M Watt — D Sutch, M Jackson, M McKay (sub: C Fleming, 79), E Fugelstad — N Adams, L Marshall (sub: A Forbes, 79), P Grant, C Llewellyn — I Roberts, D Eadie.
Referee: P Reier

Fourth-round draw offers up taste of times past

By Russell Kempson

AS AN example of the power of television — football's paymaster — and the more bizarre decision-making of the Football Association, the draw for the fourth round of the FA Cup yesterday could not be bettered. It took place in the banqueting suite at Wembley Stadium, in front of its usual audience of expectant managers, players and token supporters, but the 4pm timing could hardly have been less appropriate.

The Port Vale v Liverpool third-round tie had only just finished, the Sheffield Wednesday v Norwich City tie had marginally passed its halfway stage and the Manchester United v Middlesbrough tie had barely started. Long gone are the days of excitedly huddling around a radio on Monday morning.

It did not seem the same, either, without the bouffant-haired presence of Graham Kelly, the former FA chief executive, who resigned in disgrace over the "cash for votes" scandal last month. David Davies, the FA executive director, took over as master of ceremonies while Nobby Stiles and Norman Hunter, the former England defenders, did the draw from the bingo-style font. Long gone, too, is the bag of balls from which dreams come true.

It was a strange, almost muted, ceremony, with few of the oohs and aahs that have accompanied it down the years — apart from when Manchester United or Middlesbrough were paired with Liverpool. When United and Middlesbrough concluded business at Old Trafford almost two hours later, with United winning 3-1, the tie-of-the-round award became obvious.

Next out, Wimbledon were drawn to meet Tottenham Hotspur — the significance of which was lost on most of those present. The clubs will play at Selhurst Park in their Cup-tie over the weekend of January 23 and will meet again on the following Wednesday in the first leg of their Worthington Cup semi-final. As an appetiser, they are also due to play in an FA Carling Premiership fixture at White Hart Lane on January 16.

With replays pending, the ifs, buts and maybes are endless among the remaining 17 clubs from the Premiership, 11 from the Nationwide League first division, six from the second division, three from the third division and two from the Football Conference. At least three clubs from the Nationwide League must qualify for the last 16, adding spice to the normally Premiership-dominated fifth round.

For Wolverhampton Wanderers, recent history will repeat itself should Arsenal see off the challenge of Preston North End in their delayed third-round tie this evening. Wolves and Arsenal met in the semi-finals at Villa Park last season.

Portsmouth were rewarded for their 1-0 victory against Nottingham Forest with a home game against Rushden and Diamonds, one of the two non-league sides left, or Leeds United. Steve Claridge, the Portsmouth striker and scorer of the winning goal at the City Ground, predicted that Leeds would prevail against Rushden in the replay at Elland Road, but he was none too optimistic. "I've got a funny feeling I won't be coming back again," Claridge said, a reference to his appearance at Wembley yesterday. "At least it's a big boost for the boardroom. It means we should get paid next month." Oxford United's players, whose wages have also been late this season, will be similarly pleased with the tie against Chelsea at the Manor Ground.

Students of finer detail will have noted the pairing of Newcastle United and Bradford City, to be played at St James' Park. It is a repeat of the Cup final of 1911, when Bradford won 1-0 after a replay.

Moyes busy restoring pride to Preston

Julian Muscat meets the manager hoping to overcome history as well as Arsenal at Deepdale tonight

Given that David Moyes, the Preston North End manager, was an uncompromising, Glasgow-born stopper of the old school, Arsenal's cosmopolitan collection might fear for their limbs when they visit the dormant Lancashire giants in the FA Cup third round tonight.

They could be in for a pleasant awakening at a club thriving after Moyes's first year at the helm. The fledgeling manager has immersed his team in the passing game. He encourages the interchanging of positions, a creed that has seen no player reach double figures even though Preston, with 41 goals from 23 matches, are comfortably the most prolific scorers in the Nationwide League second division.

No detail better illustrates Moyes's footballing vision. Preston's push for promotion has been built on a unity of purpose. It is a source of immense satisfaction that they have yet to be outplayed this season, yet Moyes, 35, readily concedes that Arsenal will benefit from his unswerving philosophy.

Moyes flatly rejects the suggestion that he might delve into the manuals of John Beck, the manager famed for his reliance on the long-ball game, who brought him to Preston five years ago. "It was certainly an experience with John," Moyes said. "He showed me another side to the game. Some of it I'll use if I have to, but not his style of play."

How, then, does Moyes propose to fashion what he ventured would be one of the biggest modern Cup upsets? "How does anybody, even the likes of Harry Redknapp and George Graham, approach a game against Arsenal, with their world-class players?" he asks. "They frightened me to death when I saw them against Leeds recently. So we have got to keep things in perspective.

"Arsenal are the outstanding team of last season. To be honest, my biggest worry is that we will be filling Deepdale (capacity 21,500) for the first time since we got promoted in 1996. I want the players to give themselves and the fans the chance of a half-decent game."

Decent games are what they long for at Deepdale, once the bastion of English football. Indeed, this match is a blending of the old and new: Preston, the inaugural Double-winners in 1889, versus Arsenal, the most recent vintage.

A reminder of the club's heritage radiates from the giant facial images of Sir Tom Finney and Bill Shankly, who played at Deepdale together in the early 1940s, that stare down from upturned seats in the new stands of a half-developed ground that will accommodate 30,000 if promotion can be achieved. As Moyes relates, history is all they have had to hang on to since Preston departed, never yet to return, from the old first division 37 years ago.

Not that Moyes is unfamiliar with the big occasion. At 18 he played at right back for Celtic in the European Cup away to Juventus; the following year against the mighty Ajax at Celtic Park. He also claims the distinction of scoring with his first touch in his first Old Firm derby — "although Tom McAdam always insisted that he got the final touch".

It was as early as 18 that Moyes felt the lure of management. Obliged to act as a "runner" on coaching courses, he revelled in the cameraderie of those who lived and breathed football. "People were always joking that I'd be out watching a kid's game when I should have been in the house," he said.

To meet Moyes is to encounter a strength of character. He has a presence, the air of a man going places, one who generates respect by example rather than demanding it, as so many young wannabes do with their misplaced authoritarian approach. When he talks, as he did about his initial managerial experience, of "getting the players here to love each other a bit more", the resolve in his eye betrays what the softly spoken words conceal.

Pressure from the club's plc status demanded that Moyes's first managerial responsibility was to cull seven players from his first-team squad. Within this financial straitjacket, his work with a squad of 19 has drawn attention.

Moyes is regularly touted as a replacemant for Brian Kidd as coach at Manchester United, a scenario he describes as "very flattering, but there has been no offer; nor am I expecting one".

Yet one can detect the influence of Alex Ferguson, the United manager and high priest to Scottish aspirants such as Moyes, when he talks of his players. "I like to think of us as a working team," he said. "There are some young players here and we need to be on top of them without being in their face. Winning in this game is all about being good professionals and most of that is achieved on the training ground." The words could almost have come from Ferguson himself.

BARRY GREENWOOD



The shadow of Shankly helps to recall Preston's pomp as Moyes, their highly regarded manager, tries to [illegible] a new dynasty at a Deepdale ground steeped in history

FA Cup: Premiership clubs prove far too powerful for their Nationwide League opponents

Oldham left to reflect on life from boundary

Oldham Athletic 0
Chelsea 2

By Rob Hughes

KEN BATES, who once promised *Oldham Athletic the earth* and left them in the lurch, returned there on Saturday as *the Chelsea high-roller* who sees himself as the saviour of the Football Association in his *spare time. The FA* Council will probably decline Bates's offer to knock the sleaze and *stuffiness out of their system.* but Boundary Park provided evidence aplenty of life with or without Our Ken.

Oldham were the equal of Chelsea just five winters ago: *in the FA Carling Premiership* and minutes away from meeting them in the FA Cup Final. Now, *Boundary Park seems* a step back in time, a place squeezed by the alarming con*traction of foot*ball below the enriched Premiership. Even the Oldhams of this world can *no longer sustain the* "giant-killing" lore of the FA Cup. They ran and they worked and *they attempted to bridge the* ability gap, but Chelsea have gone four months unbeaten now because they, too, have discovered the spirit of perseverance.

Chelsea salaries frighten even Alex Ferguson, but prima donnas they are not. As the wind and rain slanted down from the Pennines, Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager who reserves himself for cup-ties, scored the decisive goals — one of great power, the other of swift opportunism. Then he said: "I knew we could handle the weather — our training ground can get quite windy. If *you want a successful team,* you have to play nice football but also to come to Oldham *and do a difficult job in a good* way." With that, and an aside about Chelsea being interested *in Steve McManaman,* despite reports of him seeking £100,000 a week, Vialli was gone. Bates was just coming down from on high, from the roof of the stand where he joined in the jocularity over the Pie Hits Ref affair just before half-time.

"Sky said it was a rock that hit the referee on the back of the neck," Bates quipped. "The pie manufacturer should sue!" Mirth rolled around the ground *after the press* steward, trying to keep a straight face, informed us that Paul Durkin, England's World Cup referee, was in fact struck by a



hot dog, the matter was in the hands of police and the FA, and Durkin had requested a steward's escort to his car.

It was as funny as a Pennine downpour. Cheap jokes after referees are shoved to the *ground or hit from the crowd* will invite more sinister acts. Old-fashioned it may be, but *whoever is to lead the Football* Association has to guard against ridicule.

Durkin was struck as he consulted his assistant referee near the corner flag and both officials, apparently having missed the deliberate handball by Celestine Babayaro, the Chelsea player, signalled a goal by *Dennis Wise. It was* annulled and Babayaro shown the yellow card after *the consultation* and the call for police intervention.

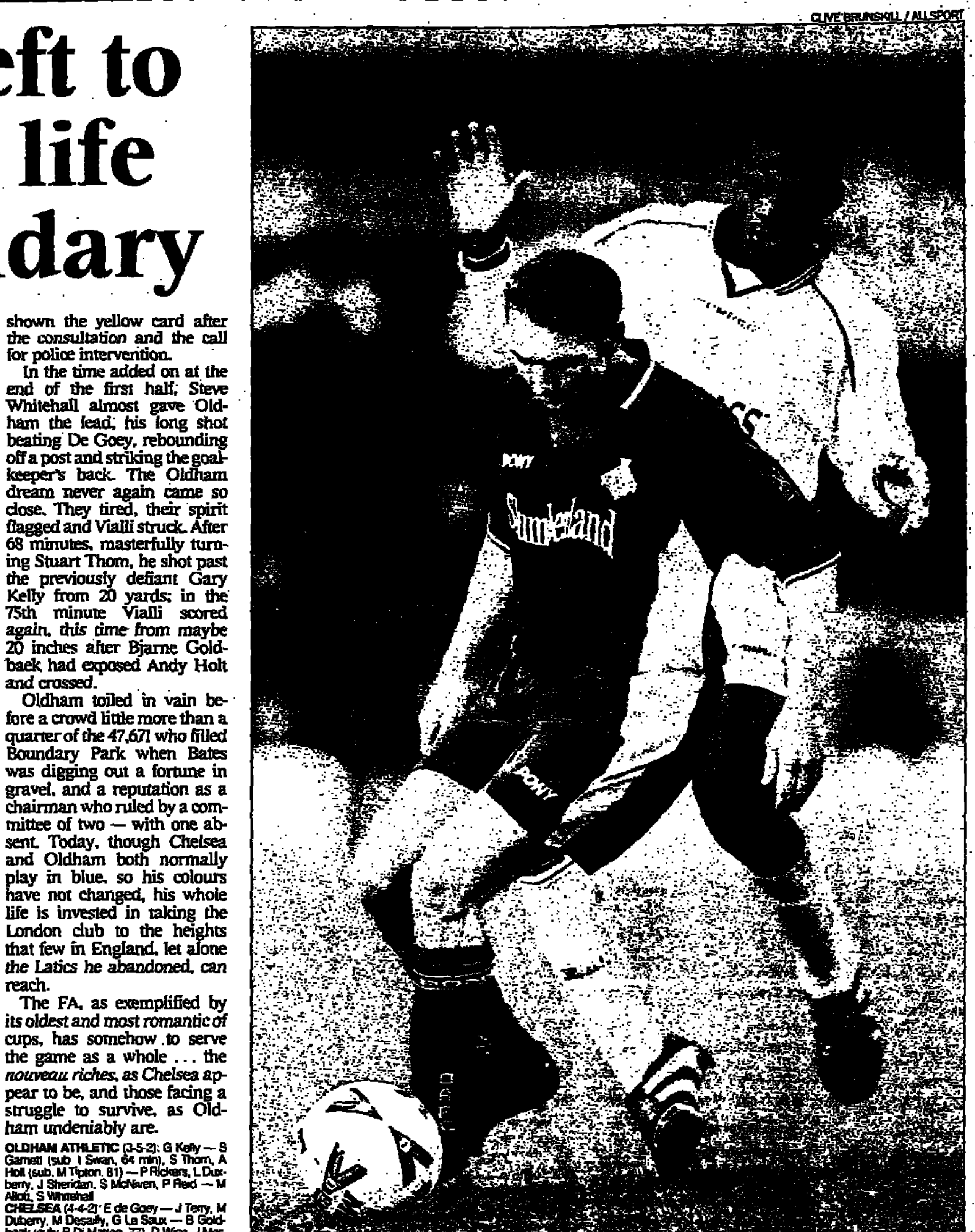
In the time added on at the end of the first half, Steve Whitehall almost gave Oldham the lead, his long shot beating De Goey, rebounding off a post and striking the goalkeeper's back. The Oldham dream never again came so close. They tired, their spirit flagged and Vialli struck. After 68 minutes, masterfully turning Stuart Thom, he shot past the previously defiant Gary Kelly from 20 yards; in the 75th minute Vialli scored *again, this time* from maybe 20 inches after Bjarne Goldbaek had exposed Andy Holt and crossed.

Oldham toiled in vain before a crowd little more than a quarter of the 47,671 who filled Boundary Park when Bates was digging out a fortune in gravel, and a reputation as a chairman who ruled by a committee of two — with one absent. Today, though Chelsea and Oldham both normally play in blue, so his colours have not changed, his whole life is invested in taking the London club to the heights that few in England, let alone *the Latics he abandoned, can* reach.

The FA, as exemplified by *its oldest and most romantic of* cups, has somehow to serve the game as a whole ... the *nouveau riches,* as Chelsea appear to be, and those facing a struggle to survive, as Oldham undeniably are.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (3-5-2): G Kelly — S Garnett (sub: I Swan, 64 min), S Thom, A Holt (sub: M Tipton, 81) — P Rickers, L Duxberry, J Sheridan, S McNiven, P Reid — M Allott, S Whitehall
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — J Terry, M Duberry, M Desailly, G Le Saux — B Goldbaek (sub: R Di Matteo, 77), D Wise, J Morris, C Babayaro — G Vialli, G Zola (sub: T A Flo, 46, sub: M Nicholls, 88)
Referee: P Durkin.

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT



Allott, left, the Oldham Athletic forward, shields the ball from the attentions of Desailly

Graham's men reluctant to break mould

Tottenham Hotspur 5
Watford 2

By Alyson Rudd

MATCH of the Day on Saturday was followed by *Darkman,* a film about a scientist who attempted to create a nose in a *machine but* was frustrated by the tendency of the nose's molecular structure to *dissolve. Tottenham Hotspur* are that nose.

George Graham, the manager, *is attempting to mould* Spurs into a clone of Arsenal. He wants to replicate his *former club's discipline and* awesome defensive capabilities. He has witnessed some *success, too, and Spurs are not* the pushovers they once were under Christian Gross. But at *Tottenham there is a tradition* of devil may care, of indulgent attacking play and, try as Gra*ham might, he cannot stabilise* the new structure.

Against Watford, the home *side's defending was haphazard.* Graham Taylor, the Watford general manager, said he saw a striking resemblance between the Arsenal back four and Tottenham's defenders at set-pieces and, indeed, Spurs are, like Arsenal, effective at taking advantage of free kicks and corners. It was at the other end the similarities ended.

For Watford's first goal, scored after just 53 seconds, *the Tottenham defence* looked stranded. Ben Iroha was allowed to burst down the right *flank and he crossed for* Smart, who headed the ball down into the path of Richard Johnson. It was impressive stuff from the Nationwide League first division sideand the *Spurs players simply* gawped at their audacity.

The marking for Watford's second goal, which enabled them to come back into the game at 3-2, was even worse. Stephen Carr suffered a nasty *bout of temporary amnesia* and forgot to pick up Peter Kennedy so that when Baze*ley's cross floated in, Kennedy* had plenty of space and time in which to pick his spot.

It took a freak hailstorm to prompt Spurs back to a more cohesive unit — perhaps the riotous thunder reminded them of one of their manager's team talks — and, after the 53rd minute, the game settled into a *more acceptable pattern.* Tottenham dominated and looked unlikely to concede again. Wat*ford had, after all, also hit the* woodwork twice.

The benchmark for Gra*ham's experimentation is* Ginola, who has been instructed to curb the ballroom dancing excesses *of his play and* instead release the ball at the earliest opportunity. Ginola has been a star pupil and his quick thinking and accuracy had undone *many a side* in the FA Carling Premiership this season. But Ginola reverted to his *old molecular structure on* Saturday and, although his twists and turns were entertaining, *Graham must* have seen his new, strong Tottenham melting before his eyes.

"He's just a joy to watch, isn't he? As long as we're five up, I don't mind," Graham said, and that is as indulgent as he will probably ever get.

Graham was more impressed with the determination of Steffen Iversen, who was not expected to have recovered fully from a broken jaw but wanted to play. Iversen scored twice and set up Spurs' fifth and, for all Ginola's gyrations, was probably the man of the match.

For a team such as Watford, who stand a realistic chance of winning promotion to the Premiership, the FA Cup gives them a taste of what a new life would be like. But to argue *that this cup tie revealed how* they would cope is as fatuous as saying the third round



Anderton, left, celebrates with Iversen and Campbell

showed how Leeds United would fare if relegated to the *Football Conference.*

It must have been Cup nerves that led to Steve Palmer's ridiculous hand ball, which resulted in a penalty and gave Tottenham a 2-1 lead 13 minutes after Watford's excellent *start.* Micah Hyde's equally ridiculous clearance, which set up Nielsen's goal, gave *Tottenham the psycholog*ical advantage and killed the game off when a giant-killing *was still on the cards.*

With more investment, Watford could survive as well as *Wimbledon have at the high*est level. Taylor said the fans might prefer Watford to stay where they are if life there comprised 5-2 defeats. Of course, he was only joking.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, L Young, A Sinton (sub: J Edinburgh, 88min) — R Fox, D Anderton (sub: S Clemence, 67), A Nielsen, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, S Iversen.
WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — B Iroha, R Page, S Palmer, P Robinson — D Bazeley, M Hyde (sub: R Rosenthal, 46), R Johnson, P Kennedy — G Noel-Williams, A Smart (sub: N Wright, 66).
Referee: P Jones

Villa's doors are closed to humble visitors

Aston Villa 3
Hull City 0

By Richard Hobson

WARREN JOYCE, the Hull City player-manager, had described it as *a distraction while John* Gregory, his counterpart at Aston Villa, felt confident enough to rest Dion Dublin, his *leading scorer. A sense of inevitabili*ty prevailed and, while the 6,000 travelling supporters from Humberside might have enjoyed a day out, as far as romance was concerned this tie equated to a wet afternoon at the seaside.

Hull did not disgrace themselves, but nor did they suggest that Villa Park might be staging the biggest shock of the FA Cup third round. The vocal encouragement of those fans will be called to more important purpose in the desperate weeks ahead as they try to recover a deficit of six points to retain their Nationwide League status.

Villa also have more urgent business. *When Gregor Rioch* clattered into Steve Watson to earn a booking after just seven seconds, Gregory *must have feared the potential cost to* his prospects in the FA Carling Premiership. The fact that his side, shorn *of Bosnich, Thompson,* Merson and Taylor through injury, emerged with all limbs still attached represented a considerable relief.

For a club that has won the League Cup in its various guises five times and reached the final on two additional occasions, it must be seen as a blot on Villa's recent *history that* their seventh FA Cup triumph occurred as long ago as 1957. Gregory, typically, put it more bluntly. "An outrage," he huffed. You wonder what language he would have used had his side succumbed on Saturday.

Any such prospect was removed in the 45th minute, when Lee Hendrie flicked on Watson's pass for Stan Col*lymore to place cleverly beyond* Wilson with his second touch. The tension that had manifested itself from *the stands only briefly, when* Wright curled a free kick out of play a little earlier, now dissipated.

Six minutes into the second *half,* Hull, for once, were caught with too many players upfield. Scimeca and Hendrie made prime use of the space before Collymore checked on *to his right foot and crossed perfectly* for Julian Joachim to head into the net. Then, with 66 minutes gone, Collymore scored for a second *time,* sweeping in a low centre by Joachim to end another counter-attack.

Whether Joachim or Collymore partners Dublin in the league game at Middlesbrough on Saturday is *hard to call.* Gregory offered a clue *by suggesting that* Collymore should have completed a hat-trick while praising Joachim. Though quicker *of mind and slicker of movement,* Villa failed to reach a state of complete domination. The midfield carried *the ball so far before losing that mo*mentum by turning backwards or sideways. Much as Watson foraged along the right flank, only *Hendrie* possessed the vision to split a wall of *golden shirts with an incisive pass.*

It is foolish to interpret too much from this contest: Villa no more resemble *Scarborough* than *Hull do* Manchester United. Yet Joyce still felt frustrated at similarities with recent league games. "The effort and commitment is there," he said, "but now we need little things on top to stay up — like finding somebody *who can score* 20 goals in the rest of the season." He does, too.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry — S Watson (sub: G Charles, 69min), R Scimeca, M Draper (sub: S Grayson, 58), L Hendrie (sub: A Lescott, 76), A Wright — S Collymore, J Joachim
HULL CITY (3-5-2): S Wilson — M Edwards, J Whittle, R Dewhurst — M Greaves (sub: R Peacock, 54), D D'Auria, W Joyce (sub: S Hawes, 85), D Brown (sub: B McGinty, 54), G Rioch — C Faulconbridge, B Morley
Referee: S Mathieson

Newcastle curse haunts Gullit

Newcastle United 2
Crystal Palace 1

By George Caulkin

WITHIN the confines of every football club, there will be a *section of support that resolute*ly refuses to see the bright side of life. Even among those who *profess to follow successful* teams, every match won and each trophy hoisted merely *provoke a shudder of terror;* how nearer comes the turn of the wheel when defeat or disil*lusion become the norm.*

Manchester United may be by far the most successful *team of the decade,* but watch for the wince when the Champions' League is brought up in casual conversation. See how the toes of Liverpool fans curl when the soaring heights of the 1980s are contrasted with recent, barren seasons. Even Arsenal supporters — fresh from the Double — have been heard to mutter about a lack of progress.

It should be no surprise, then, that followers of Newcas*tle United should consider* themselves proud specimens of this pessimistic breed. The club has won nothing meaningful since the Fairs Cup in 1969 and nothing domestically since the dying embers of the Jackie Milburn era. The past *few years have contained* more peaks and troughs than a cartographer's office. It has *taken Ruud Gullit five months* to acquaint himself fully with this conspiracy theory and he *is now a wholesale convert.*

"There is a curse on this club," he said after this breathless victory, talking of "events flipping out of my hands," of a catalogue of injuries, illnesses and suspensions, of thwarted *ambitions in the transfer mar*ket. The alternative to this explanation is a good deal less *palatable: that Newcastle* are rotten from top down, that the uncertainty regarding the *club's future ownership* is mirrored by a team racked by negative equity.

No sooner had the news of the impeding absence of Duncan Ferguson for up to eight weeks with a groin problem begun to filter through, then Gullit found his resources stretched *still further.* Within 16 minutes against Palace, Shay Given was sent off for a debatable handling offence — that Palace then scored with a header by Lee Bradbury *only* added fuel to Gullit's ire.

These perceived injustices whipped *St James' Park into* something of a frenzy. United equalised three minutes inside *the second half, Alan Shearer* touching on a long punt for Gary Speed to unleash a ro*bust shot. and took* a winning lead when the England captain controlled and converted a cross from the left. Their dominance was reflected by two more shots hacked off the line.

"One of my staff told me afterwards that he wanted to go *home to bed because he felt so* drained by the game," Gullit said. Those whose fate it is to *follow Oxford United,* Portsmouth or Hull City would settle for a jinx as benevolent as that.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — L Charvet, N Dabizas, A Hughes, W Barton (G Georgiadis, 84) — N Solano, D Hamann, G Speed, S Glass (S Harper, 16) — A Shearer, A Andersson.
CRYSTAL PALACE (5-3-2): K Miller — J Smith, C Moore, H Mullins, D Tuttle, S Jihai — C Foster (M Jansen, 50), F Zhiyi (A Linighan, 76), S Rodger — L Bradbury (M Bent, 70), C Morrison.
Referee: M Reed

Leicester reaping reward for O'Neill's loyalty

Leicester City 4
Birmingham City 2

By Keith Pike

WHEN Martin O'Neill turned his back on Nottingham Forest in order *to finish the job he had started with* Wycombe Wanderers, there were plenty who doubted his sanity as well *as his ambition. They said the same* this season when he resisted Leeds United. But in an age in which loyal*ty is a negotiable commodity, O'Neill* cuts an impressive, if rare, figure.

Leicester City may have been *forced to offer an improved deal to* keep O'Neill, but the rewards have been rapid: their best players have followed *his example* by pledging their futures to the club. Europe beckons via both the FA Carling Premiership *and Worthington Cup and now* an awkward FA Cup third-round hurdle has been cleared with unexpected *comfort.*

There are very few managers who enjoy the glow of victory more. Even *the most modest of displays can* launch him into the realms of ecstasy, so after seeing Birmingham City eclipsed, O'Neill's *juices* were flowing. He would not swap Lennon and Izzet, his central midfield partnership, *for Vieira and Petit; Guppy is* the best left-sided player in the country; Heskey will eventually lead the England attack "as surely as day follows night". The performance? "Fantastic. Magnificent." Wembley? "I'll *book my ticket now.*"

None of O'Neill's claims, though, are entirely fanciful. Lennon, drop*ping off his markers to set attacks in* motion with the quality and range of his passing, is probably as good a *midfield player as there is in the Pre*miership at the moment. If Heskey is not quite in Michael Owen's class, on *this form, he is not too far behind.*

By adding subtlety to his pace and immense power, Heskey, still only 20, has developed into one of the country's most fearsome opponents, and Birmingham had no answer to him on Saturday. *Leicester's opening* goal, by Sinclair, and their third, by Cottee, both owed everything to the *deftness and vision that* Heskey showed in the build-up.

"There has been a huge improve*ment in Emile's game,"* O'Neill said. "I think he has done the right thing to stay here and learn his trade and ig*nore the pot of gold elsewhere.* He has a fantastic attitude."

Leicester's fourth goal was another *cracker, Elliott's 50-yard pass* and an unselfish run by Ullathorne — who had earlier scored No 2 — being *matched by Guppy's curling finish.* Robinson's strike before half-time, to reduce the deficit to 2-1, had given Bir*mingham some hope, but they had* admitted defeat long before Adebola volleyed a consolation second.

"We have played against one or two very good teams in our division, but none of them compare with *Leicester,"* Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, conceded.

LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, G Taggart, R Ullathorne — S Campbell, N Lennon (sub: T Zagorakis, 86min), M Izzet (sub: G Parker, 88), S Guppy — E Heskey, A Cottee (sub: I Marshall, 75).
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — G Rowett, G Ablett, M Johnson, S Marsh (sub: M Granger, 48) — J McCarthy (sub: B Hughes, 78), S Robinson, M O'Connor, P Ndlovu — P Furlong (sub: N Forster, 63), D Adebola.
Referee: U Rennie.

Ilic takes leave of his senses as Charlton fold yet again

Blackburn Rovers 2
Charlton Athletic 0

By Martin Woods

AFTER only his sixth game in charge, Jack Walker's appointment of Brian Kidd as the Blackburn Rovers manager *would already have won Napo*leon's seal of approval. The little emperor's preference for those who were above all lucky would strike a chord with the Blackburn benefactor after watching Kidd's side beat a hapless Charlton *Athletic for the second time in* a month at Ewood Park.

In the FA Carling Premier*ship game, Charlton lost to* Kevin Davies's first goal for Rovers, remembered for being a touch fortunate. This time Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, had to endure another performance that not only contained the usual chronic generosity to an undeserving opposition, but also revealed his goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, to be prone to the premature evacuation of his goal.

With the rain sweeping down over a half-full Ewood *Park, and with four minutes* left — not counting three minutes of stoppage time — Charl*ton won only their second cor*ner and Ilic raced up to the



Davies: accepting gifts

Rovers goalmouth to begin the farce that ended with the ball in the back of the Charlton net for the second time — Davies had earlier been gifted the home side's first. Kinsella's corner was cleared by Wilcox *to Gillespie,* who dribbled upfield while Ilic began his forlorn sprint of retreat to his *own goalmouth. Gillespie* found Wilcox and he drilled the ball home.

"We weren't *prepared* for what Ilic did and we've never done it before. I'm just appalled," Curbishley said after this, their eighth consecutive defeat. As Napoleon would advise, you cannot prepare for lady luck.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filan — S Perez, S Henchoz, M Broomes, G Croft — K Gillespie, B McKinlay, D Marcolin (sub: D Dunn, 88min), J Wilcox — K Davies, K Gallacher (sub: D Duff, 63)
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Ilic — C Tiler (sub: M Holmes, 68), R Rufus, E Youds — D Mills (sub: S Newton, 77), S Parker (sub: M Bright, 88), M Kinsella, N Redfearn, C Powell — J Robinson, A Hunt.
Referee: K Burge.

Coventry survive onslaught to reach seventh heaven

Coventry City 7
Macclesfield Town 0

By Nick Szczepanik

ANYONE not at Highfield Road on Saturday could be forgiven for assuming that this FA Cup third-round result represented a ruthless assertion of the superiority of the FA Carling Premiership, *albeit its lower reaches,* over the equivalent depths of the Nationwide League second division.

And so it did, for the final hour or so — yet one cannot help wondering what might have happened if Macclesfield Town had scored during an opening 25 minutes when, urged on by a large and noisy crowd, *they took the game to* their more illustrious hosts. At that stage, Coventry City, on *the tenth anniversary* of a famous FA Cup debacle at the hands of Sutton United, pinned back by opponents who clearly *relished the occa*sion, would probably have settled for any sort of passage to the fourth round.

However, once Steve Froggatt's 27th-minute run put Coventry ahead, the roof fell in on Macclesfield. Further goals arrived *before* the break: Noel Whelan headed a second and

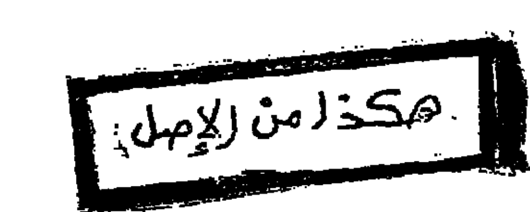


Huckerby: hat-trick

Steve Payne sliced Froggatt's low cross into his own net on the stroke of *half-time.*

After the restart, Coventry ran away with it. Darren *Huckerby shot in from 20* yards on the hour, then took a return pass from John Aloisi *before slipping a fifth under* the advancing Ryan Price ten minutes later. George Boateng scored the best goal of the match. Winning the ball in his own half, he passed to Huckerby on the right and ran half the length of the field before meeting the cross with a diving header. Huckerby scored his third, and Coven*try's seventh,* from a narrow angle in the final minute.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows (sub: S Shilton, 83min) — G Boateng, G McAllister, T Soltvedt, S Froggatt — D Huckerby, N Whelan (sub: J Aloisi, 52).
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — S Hitchen, E Sodje (sub: K Durkan, 80), S Payne, N Howarth — J Askey, S Wood (sub: D Lonergan, 74), B Sedgemore, S Davies — P Matias (sub: S Whittaker, 45), G Tomlinson.
Referee: G Willard.



FA Cup: O'Leary's title hopefuls forced to hang on for a draw against high-class minnows

Leeds discover that Diamonds are genuine

Rushden and Diamonds ...0
Leeds United......................0

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE last time a pair of jackboots tried to muscle in on a romance, they got short shrift in the *Sound of Music*. On Saturday, they attempted a comeback at Nene Park, Doc Martens disguised as plucky little Rushden and Diamonds.

They were supposed to be the darlings of the FA Cup third round this season, but it did not take long to work out *that underdogs* never used to



be like this. It was cheek enough that they managed to hold Leeds United, a club 90 places above them in the football pyramid, a club chasing the FA Carling Premiership title, to a goalless draw. It rubbed salt into the wounds *when they forced their* eminent visitors to hang on for dear life in the last 15 *minutes* after they had been reduced to ten men.

But what gave the game away was the message that the stadium announcer read out moments after the final whistle. "Supporters' club coaches for the replay at Elland Road a week *on* Tuesday will leave at 3.15 and 3.30," he said.

This story, you see, is not a true romance because Rushden and Diamonds are *not* true minnows. They are a fine club, staffed by courteous, helpful, hospitable people and owned by the softly-spoken and unassuming Dr Martens multimillionaire, Max Griggs. They heaped credit upon themselves by not raising their ticket prices. But nothing about them is little, no part of their set-up deserves to be patronised.

Marooned somewhere in *the middle of Northampton*shire they may be, but they are assuredly big boys already, an ambitious, thrusting club that knows exactly what it wants. They do not have dreams. They have goals. And there is a *very important difference.*

This game against Leeds was not the be-all-and-end-all for them, it was just a stop on their march to full league status and who knows where else. That they had already made all the plans for a replay, reflected not only on *their professionalism but on* their pragmatism. Other non-league sides might have scrambled to make arrangements in a state of agitated wonder. Not Rushden and Diamonds.

From the Doc Shop, a mer*chandising store that sells all* manner of kits and casual wear, to their elegant Air Wair stand and the rows of executive boxes at Nene Park, Rushden and Diamonds are a sparkling incongruity in the midst of the Conference.

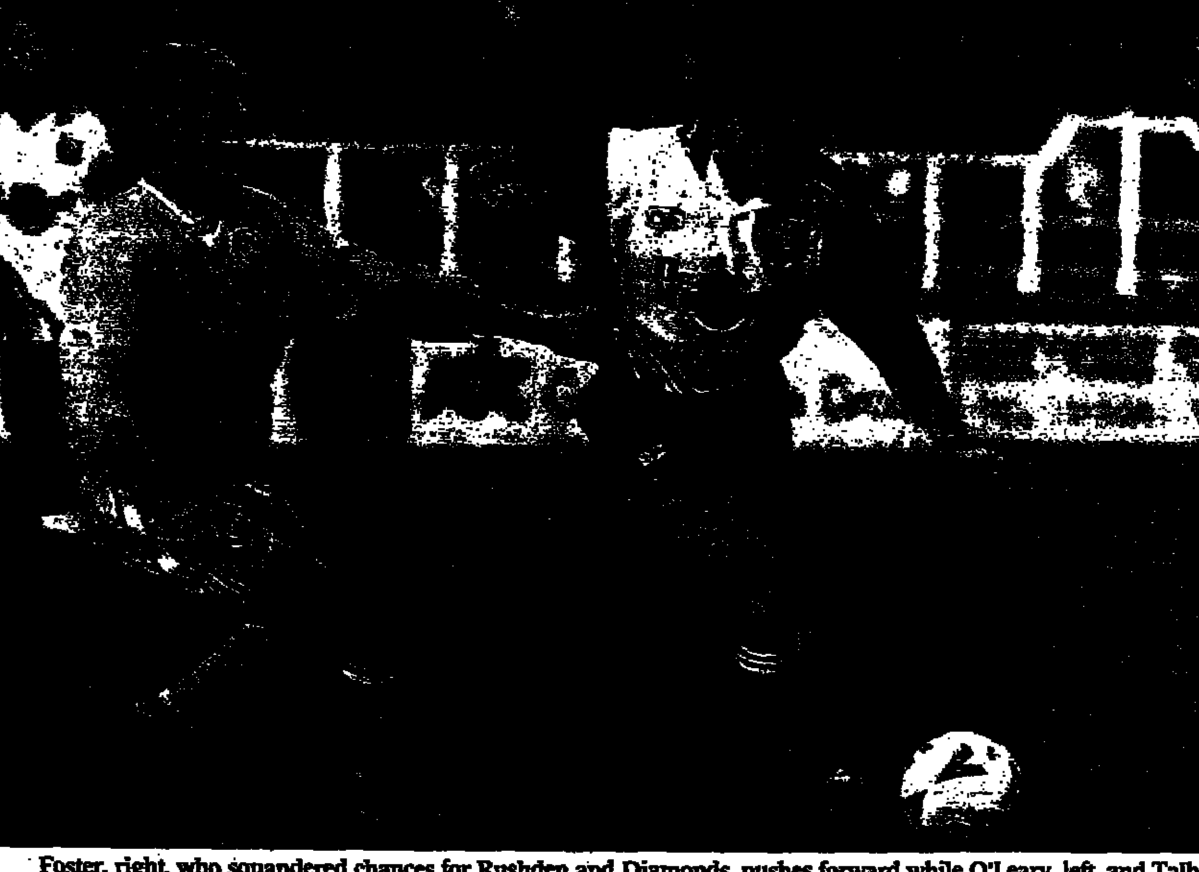
Where others would have re*joiced in the £250,000 windfall* a replay will yield, Griggs merely confirmed the money was not important to him. Where others would make no bones about the enormity of the prospect of being in the hat *for the fourth round of* the FA Cup, Griggs said unswervingly that attaining league status was definitely the priority.

He even hesitated when asked if this was Rushden and Diamonds' finest hour. He said the various promotions that had carried them from *the depths of the United Coun*ties League, where they were when he founded the club in 1992, had been great occasions, too, but that the draw with Leeds shaded them.

Leeds had enjoyed one of *their proudest moments that* year, too, beating Manchester United to the last Football League title before the inauguration of the Premiership. But if the gulf between the two teams then was a yawning chasm, the FA Cup third-round tie on Saturday showed *just how quickly it is closing.*

Leeds were the better side in the first half. Harry Kewell, the game's outstanding player, ghosted past defenders at will and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink looked primed to score a *hatful. Somehow, it never hap*pened. Partly owing to Leeds's overelaboration, partly to the defiant goalkeeping of Ian Feuer, it was Rushden who created the best chances.

Adrian Foster should have put them ahead in the first minute but he could only head *a cross by John Hamsher* against a post from close range. De Souza could have scored, too, eight minutes before half-time and Foster missed another gilt-edged



Foster, right, who squandered chances for Rushden and Diamonds, pushes forward while O'Leary, left, and Talbot, the opposing managers, embrace after the final whistle

> 'Nothing about them is little, no part of their set-up deserves to be patronised'

chance on the stroke of the interval, *slicing his volley wide.*

By then, Feuer had beaten out *several shots from* Hasselbaink, seen a curler from Kewell drift narrowly wide and watched as a shot by Wijnhard cannoned off the foot of his right-hand post. His feet kept a shot by Kewell out in *the sixtieth minute*, but, after that, Rushden began to look *the better side.*

Their confidence grew in the 76th minute, when Woodgate was sent off for a second bookable offence, and they should have won in the closing stages. Foster, ending his match as he *had begun it, was the culprit,* ballooning his free header *over the crossbar from Hamsh*er's corner.

The replay beckons but Brian Talbot, the Rushden manager, had his mind on more pressing targets. "We're third in the Conference and I don't *know if we'll make to the* league this season. If we don't make it next year either, I suppose I better start looking over my shoulder." If that's romance, then the traditions of the Cup are changing faster than we thought.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (4-4-2): I Feuer — T Wooding, J Rodwell, D Bradshaw, P Underwood — J Hamsher, M McElhatton, G Butterworth, C Heggs — M De Souza, A Foster.
LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3): N Martyn — J Woodgate, A I Haaland, I Harte — G Halle, D Hopkin, L Bowyer, D Granville — C Wijnhard (sub: A Smith 67), J Hasselbaink, H Kewell.
Referee: S Dunn.

Reames brings touch of reason

Lincoln City 0
Sunderland...............................1

BY PAT GIBSON

IN AN ideal world, Mick Fletcher, the referee from Warley in the West Midlands, would have awarded Lincoln City two penalties, both of them would have been converted and Sunderland would have got their just deserts for persuading the Football Association to replace the appointed official, Paul Danson, of Leicester.

This is English football in the Nineties, however, and, as if to confirm that the haves will always prevail over the have-nots, Fletcher waved aside Lincoln's appeals and Sunderland, the runaway leaders of the Nationwide League first division, progressed to the fourth round of *the FA Cup through* a sixteenth-minute goal from Gavin McCann.

John Reames, the Lincoln chairman who recently took over the manager's job as well, because he did not think it was fair to ask someone else to run a club struggling at the bottom of *the second division* and losing £5,000 a week, could have been forgiven for being bitter. Instead, Reames provided an abject lesson to all those bleating managers such as Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger, not to mention Peter Reid, whose dismissal from the dug-out *by Danson* after he had sent off Martin Scott and Paul Stewart at Arsenal in 1996 was behind Sunderland's protests.

"I think the whole story behind the referee is a crying shame for football," Reames said. "I could have said that we should have had two penalties today and I don't want this referee again. *But what a* nonsense that would be."

It would be nice to report it was a crying shame that Lincoln *lost, but that* was hardly the case in a disappointing cup-tie that was decided six minutes after McCann had gone on as a substitute for the injured Scott.

Lincoln, to their credit, kept trying to play football but, those penalty appeals apart, Sunderland had few problems in recording their eighth clean sheet in nine games, despite the dismissal of Williams just before the end of the game for a second bookable offence.

LINCOLN CITY (4-4-2): J Vaughan — J Barnett, S Holmes, G Brown, S Simpson — P Smith (sub: C Alcide, 80min), J Finnigan, T Fleming (sub: L Philpott, 86), P Miller — T Battersby (sub: P Stant, 72), L Thorpe.
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorenson — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Scott (sub: G McCann, 10) — D Williams, K Ball, L Clark, M Gray — D Dichio, N Quinn.
Referee: M Fletcher

Prolific Dale almost gets his wires crossed

Cardiff City 1
Yeovil Town......................................1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE dawning realisation of the possible consequences to his future security could not wipe away the grin from Carl Dale's face as he talked of the goal against his former club that so nearly *brought* Yeovil Town their nineteenth Football League scalp at Ninian Park on Saturday.

Dale, released by Cardiff last summer after seven seasons, has been granted a testimonial match in May. "I had a great reception from the supporters," Dale said, "but if my goal had turned out to be the winner, I don't know how many would have been back in May."

An electrician, who lives in a village near Newport, Dale is hoping to put the proceeds towards establishing his own business. "They're my clients out there," he said, waving towards the Popular Bank seats, smile wavering for a second.

Not for long. "Six goals in eight starts. That's not bad is it?" Goalscorer's first *instincts restored. Might it* not have been better to have saved his *goal to closer to the finish? "If it had* come in the last minute, I wouldn't have been on the pitch," he responded.

A niggling groin strain and the form of Darren Keeling, a signing from Gloucester City, who was Cup-tied on Saturday, has restricted Dale's contributions to the Football Conference club. And with Cardiff turning up the pressure, he departed, *shattered, ten minutes from time*, to be replaced by the 17-year-old, Arthur Appleton.

Dale had done his bit. In a purple patch he first slid in on a cross from Smith only to put his shot over the crossbar and then forced Ford to concede the corner from which he scored. Amid the 2,500 Yeovil supporters in a capacity crowd, a red flare illuminated the area as Thomp*son took the corner. It was as if they* knew Yeovil's moment had arrived.

Patmore, Yeovil's hard-working target man, thundered in a header that rebounded into space. Dale sensed hesitation in the defence. "I went in to try and block the clearance and the ball flew in off my leg," he said. "It was a bit lucky."

If it was not for a *last-gasp* intervention by Delaney, Yeovil might have followed up with a second goal. The highly rated wing-back, fresh out of the League of Wales, raced back to clear a shot that Piper, set up by Thompson and Patmore, touched past Hallworth towards an open goal.

Cardiff *did* not fire in the fashion that has taken them to the top of the *Nationwide League third division.* Frank Burrows, the manager, however, *replaced a pair of his out-of-sorts* performers and urged his men on down the flanks, determined that their fitness should count.

Yeovil held out until six minutes from time. From a corner by Fowler, Nugent headed towards the far post and Roberts darted in to cause enough confusion to leave Pennock, *in the Yeovil goal, grasping* at thin air as the ball rolled in off a post.

Nugent *nearly snatched* a winner with a header from a cross by Legg that Brown cleared brilliantly from under his bar. That would have been unjust — even if it would have relieved Dale's agonies. Yeovil, instead, have the chance to send Cardiff the way of Northampton Town in a replay at Huish Park tomorrow week.

Colin Lippiatt, the head coach, said: "The result showed how the gap *between the League and the Confer*ence is closing. It showed how far we have come as a squad. The team really dug in and they deserved it."

CARDIFF CITY (3-5-2): J Hallworth — J Eckhardt, G Mitchell, M Ford — M Delaney, C Middleton, D Hill (sub: A Legg, 72min), J Fowler, W O'Sullivan — K Nugent, J Williams (sub: C Roberts, 66)
YEOVIL TOWN (3-5-2): A Pennock — M Hayfield, R Cousins, K Brown — D piper, B Smith, S Stott, S Thompson, A Pounder (sub: J Parman, 75) — C Dale (sub: A Appleton, 80), W Patmore
Referee: M Pierce

Everton guilty of another City smash-and-grab

Bristol City 0
Everton....................................2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AT Ashton Gate four years ago, Everton were torn limb from limb by Bristol City in an FA Cup fourth-round tie, somehow survived and then sneaked a late winner. *It* was a travesty of a result, an injustice of the cruellest kind. Everton went on to win the Cup, beating Manchester United in the final.

At Ashton Gate on Saturday, Everton were *matched* blow for blow by Bristol City *in a third-round tie, rode their* good fortune and then snatched victory with two late goals from Ibrahima Bakayoko. Everton may again consider that on such rocky foundations are lengthy Cup runs borne.

For the two managers, Benny *Lennartsson, of Bristol* City, and Walter Smith, of *Everton, it was their first taste* of the cup and afterwards Smith, the former Glasgow Rangers manager, was grateful that Everton had *not* become another victim of the underdog. "It was as I expected and similar to the Scottish Cup," he said. "If you don't get the first goal, it is always going to be tough. I was pleased when the breakthrough came and pleased to get into the next *round*. We didn't have too many anxious moments."

Not too many anxious moments? Poppycock. From the moment that Akinbiyi and Unsworth indulged in a slap-and-wrestle exchange in the first minute, strangely escaping with only a booking apiece, *it was impossible to dis*tinguish between FA Carling Premiership strugglers and Nationwide League first division strugglers. It was classic Cup fare - raw, unfettered and played out in front of a passionate, *raucous audience.*

City lost it in the second half when Hewlett volleyed against a post, missed the rebound and Tistimetanu, the Moldova midfield player, *drove over from the ensuing* scramble. Akinbiyi also erred, unforgivably, when Murray's cross fell invitingly and he headed over from barely three yards. "It was a free header," Lennartsson said. "I thought it was in."

Enter Bakayoko, a previous*ly peripheral figure* like so many of his team-mates. The Ivory Coast *striker* is not noted for his expertise at free kicks but, in the 84th minute, his deliciously struck 30-yard effort flew past Phillips. Four minutes later, Bakayoko brushed aside Carey, cut in and bamboozled Phillips with a scuffed shot from close-range. It compounded the injustice and as the ecstatic Everton fans spilled on to the pitch, dancing jigs of glee, the City supporters set off home in disbelief.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — A Locke (sub: G Goodridge, 75min), M Shail, L Carey, M Bell — S Murray, I Tistimetanu, M Hewlett (sub: C Hutchings, 75), S Andersen — A Akinbiyi, S Torpey
EVERTON (3-4-1-2): T Myhre — S Bilic, D Watson, D Unsworth — R Dunne, O Dacourt (sub: A Grant, 46), D Hutchison, M Ball - N Barmby (sub: J Oster, 58) — D Cadamarteri (sub: M Branch, 81), I Bakayoko
Referee: J Winter

Derby eclipse of Plymouth illuminated by Sturridge

Plymouth Argyle 0
Derby County........................3

BY BILL EDGAR

TOURISM officials hope that the thousands making their first visit to Plymouth this summer to *view* the total solar eclipse will be tempted to return for future holidays. How Plymouth Argyle must wish that the extra 10,000 or so home supporters lured by the dazzle of the FA Cup on Saturday will make a regular weekend pilgrimage to Home Park.

Such an outcome is highly unlikely, however, as the Cup has long kept the league in the shade for Plymouth fans. More than 34,000 watched the home quarter-final tie against Derby County in 1984, and around 14,000 travelled from Devon for a fourth-round game away *to Arsenal in 1987*, yet league crowds have rarely risen much above 6,000 over the past 15 years.

The capacity has been reduced *since* the mid-1980s, *but were the near-17,000* attendance against Derby on Saturday to become the norm, as would be more reasonable in a city of a quarter of a million people, Argyle's natural territory would be closer to the *mid-table* position in the FA Carling Premiership held by *Derby — whose population is* smaller — than their own spot in the Nationwide League third division.

Plymouth did manage to trouble Derby during the first

Results, tables.............................31
Lynne Truss.............................34

half, despite the 2-0 interval scoreline. Earl Jean and the industrious Martin Barlow opening up a team missing five *first-choice players. The threat* diminished, however, after a fierce volley from ten yards by Jean in the 42nd minute was caught expertly by Mart Poom, the Derby goalkeeper.

The hosts were worn down by the passing of Stefano *Eranio, Lee Carsley and* Dean Sturridge, the latter playing a part in all three goals. One club made an offer for Sturridge recently, prompting his withdrawal from the Boxing Day game with Everton because *he felt distracted*, but his mind was sharp here.

First Sturridge crossed for Deon Burton to head home, then he induced Paul Wotton into a foul that produced a penalty converted by Eranio — who later missed another spot kick — and finally he stepped over a centre by *Kevin Harper* from which Burton scored.

Hodges was happy with his team's effort, saying: "Now we've got to go up to Rochdale next week and repeat that."

Whether many supporters will make the same journey is debatable.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (4-4-2): J Sheffield — J Aston, M Heathcote, P Wotton, J Beswethrick (sub: S McCall, 66min) — R Mauge, M Barlow, C Hargreaves, L Phillips (sub: D Marshall, 66) — E Jean, S McCarthy
DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M Poom — S Prior, H Carbonari, S Elliott — R Kozluk, L Bohinen (sub: J Hunt, 46), S Eranio (sub: K Harper, 79), L Carsley, J Laursen — D Burton, D Sturridge
Referee: E Wolstenholme

Southport pay the penalty as underdogs

Southport 0
Leyton Orient...............................2

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE would have been no sympathy, no understanding had the result gone the other way. With the rarity of an FA Cup third-round triumph ensured, however, Barry Hearn, the chairman of *Leyton Orient*, was able to dwell on the difficulties of life *in the Nationwide League* third division.

"It was a myth to have Southport as the underdogs," Hearn said after the game. "There's not much between the two leagues in terms of standard and, because we are a struggling club, we need to *keep this Cup run going just* as much as they did. Financially, it will be a great help to us."

For Southport, of the Football Conference, the sneaking feeling that their giant-killing act had come in the previous round, away to *Mansfield* Town, turned into reality. *Then they were under pres*sure but emerged victorious because of their clinical finishing. On Saturday, they enjoyed much of the possession, some good chances, but there was no way the ball was finding its way past Chris Mackenzie, the Orient goalkeeper.

The match appeared to turn in their favour from the fourth *minute*, when John Bagnall, the home goalkeeper, made a superb save from Martin Ling from close range. Encouraged, Southport took the con*test to Orient, and only two* goalline clearances from Matthew Joseph, the Orient defender, prevented the home side establishing a lead.

Shortly after half-time, however, the encounter swung back in the visitors' favour. After an hour, Phil Horner, the Southport defender, was adjudged to have fouled Ling *in the area and Dean Smith* converted the penalty, although the decision by John Brandwood, the referee, looked harsh.

On the counter-attack, Carl Griffiths scored Orient's second and not even a yellow card for over-celebrating — he jumped over the barrier and into the stand containing Orient fans — negated their delight. By contrast, Paul Futcher, the Southport player-manager, just about contained his disgust at the referee's judgment.

SOUTHPORT (4-5-1): J Bagnall — A Farley, P Bolland, P Horner, T Ryan — S Quinn (sub: J Newman, 77min), S Guyett, P Futcher (sub: L Furlong, 72), A Gouck, D Gamble — D Thompson
LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): C Mackenzie — M Joseph, D Smith, S Clark — T Richards (sub: K Ampadu, 77), M Beall, M Ling (sub: A Inglethorpe, 88), W Watschaerts, M Lockwood — C Griffiths (sub: A Simba, 81), J McDougald
Referee: J Brandwood

Cole bunkers Swansea's hopes of shock success




Dicks, right, salutes his goal

West Ham United 1
Swansea City.......................1

BY PETER ROBINSON

GOT *home, opened the door,* coat off, shoes off. Wife inquisitive. "How's the game then?" Fine, very entertaining. "What happened?" Draw, West Ham were lucky.

"What's your line?" If you were looking long-term, then Joe Cole made his debut.

"What about Swansea?" They were excellent, yes, but Cole, they say, is the future of English football.

"And how old is he?" Seventeen. *Just.* "Oh, come on, that is far too young. You cannot *tell how anyone will turn out* at that age. You are making the classic mistake of building someone up before they are ready for it. And it is not fair on Swansea." What do you mean not fair?

"How often do they get people writing nice things about them in *The Times*? They almost knock a Premiership team out of the Cup and you don't even write about them."

She was right, of course. Swansea were magnificent. They took on a team 70 places higher than them in the *league ladder, away from home, and made them* look ordinary. A 24-year-old centre half signed from Tiverton Town for £15,000 at the start of the season, his first as a professional, scored their goal, which was created by a twinkling 18-year-old winger.

Yet though a rematch at Vetch Field lies in store, there is still a nagging doubt. Will those players at Upton Park on Saturday remember the game as one in which they almost beat West Ham United or as the one in which Cole made his bow as a professional *footballer? Probably both.*

Had he not come on, 65 *minutes into a passionate* match, Swansea would probably have won. Tactically, they were spot on and they refused to be intimidated either when, after 35 minutes, a brawl erupted. Ruddock and Smith were both booked.

Smith went on to score the Swansea goal, a header from close range after Roberts had skipped past Potts, but, shortly after, on came Cole to steal his thunder. Welcomed by the crowd like a Hollywood star, he did not let them down, *dancing away from tackles* like a natural. Had he scored, *he would have brought the* house down. Instead, it was Dicks whose long, low drive rolled underneath Freestone, the Swansea goalkeeper, who marred an otherwise fine afternoon with the mistake that cost his team a place in history.

Well, it might have done. Swansea may win the replay. They certainly can, on this evidence. They should, if only to ensure that justice is done. Neutrals everywhere must hope that they will.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, N Ruddock, J Dicks — T Sinclair, S Lomas, E Berkovic (sub: J Cole, 65), S Potts, S Lazaridis (E Omoyinmi, 81) — J Hartson (S Abou, 70), I Wright.
SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): R Freestone — S Jones, J Smith, M Bound, M Howard — S Roberts, N Cusack, M Thomas, J Coates — S Watkin, J Alsop.
Referee: S Lodge

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 DERBY (2) 3
16,730 Burton 15, 82; Eranio 21 (pen)

Plymouth: J Sheffield, J Ashton, J Beswetherick (sub: S McCall 67min), R Mauge, M Heathcote, P Wotton, M Barlow, C Hargreaves, S McCarthy, E Jean, L Phillips (sub: D Marshall 67)

Booked: Ashton, Wotton, Mauge.

Derby County: M Poom, H Carbonari, S Elliott, S Prior, R Kozluk, J Laursen, L Bohinen (sub: J Hunt 45), L Carsley, S Eranio (sub: K Harper 79), D Sturridge, D Burton.

Booked: Burton, Hunt. Referee: E Wolstenholme.

REPLAY DATES

(7.45pm kick off unless stated)

Tuesday January 12

Leeds Utd v Rushden & Diamonds, Barnsley v Swindon, Notts County v Sheff Utd, Yeovil Town v Cardiff City, Fulham v Southampton

Wednesday January 13

Swansea v West Ham

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were thirteen score draws: Cardiff v Yeovil; Southampton v Fulham; West Ham v Swansea; Colchester v Luton; Chester v Southend; Hartlepool v Cambridge Utd; Shrewsbury v Halifax; Torquay v Brighton; Falkirk v Airdrie; Bishop Auckland v Spennymoor; Emley v Marine, Gainsborough v Runcorn, Leigh RMI v Whitby Town. Payouts on eight, seven and six score draws. *This weeks estimated pay out for: Eight score draws: 134 winners each £644.50. Seven score draws: 1433 winners each £16. Six score draws: 9141 winners each £5.*

SCOTLAND

TENNENT'S CUP

SECOND ROUND

CIVIL SERVICE (0) 0 ALBION (2) 3
250 Lorimer 36; Melvin 38, Diack 60
Sent off: D Curran (Civil Service) 71

DALBEATTIE (1) 1 EAST STIRLING (1) 2
Glendinning 16 Walker 17, 31
1,287

FORFAR (0) 2 EAST FIFE (2) 2
Craig 57; Brand 69 Coyle 3, Moffat 11
657
Sent off: J Allison (Forfar) 78

HUNTLY (3) 3 PETERHEAD (0) 0
Grant 11, 24; Whyte 31 1,500
Sent off: S King (Peterhead) 48

INVERNESS C (1) 1 LIVINGSTON (1) 2
McManus 44 (og) Bingham 9 (pen); McCormick 63
3,367

KEITH (0) 0 BRECHIN (0) 0
600

MONTROSE (0) 0 STIRLING (0) 0
533

PARTICK (2) 5 COWDENBEATH (1) 2
Tosh 9, 15, 54; Dunn 65, 84 Burns 22; Sneddon 57
3,019

SPARTANS (1) 1 CLYDE (1) 1
Hobbins 8 McCusker 45
737
Sent off: G Monroe (Spartans) 65

WHITEHILL (1) 1 STENHOUSEM'R (0) 1
Jardine 9 Craig 51
801
Sent off: W Bennett (Whitehill) 90; C Martin (Whitehill) 72

POSTPONED: Queen of South v Ross County; Queen's Park v Clachnacuddin.

PREMIER LEAGUE

DUNDEE (1) 1 DUNDEE UTD (2) 3
McSkimming 28 Dodds 10; Thompson 18; Olofsson 70
11,751

DUNFERMLINE (0) 0 HEARTS (0) 0
9,227

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 4 ABERDEEN (1) 1
Bollan 44 (pen); Kernaghan 52; O'Neil 75, 84 Buchan 25
8,971

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (2) 4 STRANRAER (0) 0
Findlay 3; Hurst 40, 86; Walker 69 2,722
Sent off: P Ronald (Stranraer) 49

FALKIRK (1) 1 AIRDRIE (0) 1
Moss 35 McCormick 72
4,518
Sent off: M Wilson (Airdrie) 75; M Keith (Falkirk) 90

HIBERNIAN (4) 5 RAITH (1) 1
Lovell 1; McGinlay 12, 43; Latapy 22; McEwan 72 (og) Dargo 39
14,703

POSTPONED: GK Morton v St Mirren (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: No score draw).

THIRD DIVISION

POSTPONED: Dumbarton v Berwick.

Matt Jackson, left, of Norwich holds off Ritchie Humphreys, of Sheffield Wednesday, during yesterday's FA Cup tie. Report, page 27. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

GOALSCORERS

NON-LEAGUE AND CONFERENCE

UNIBOND

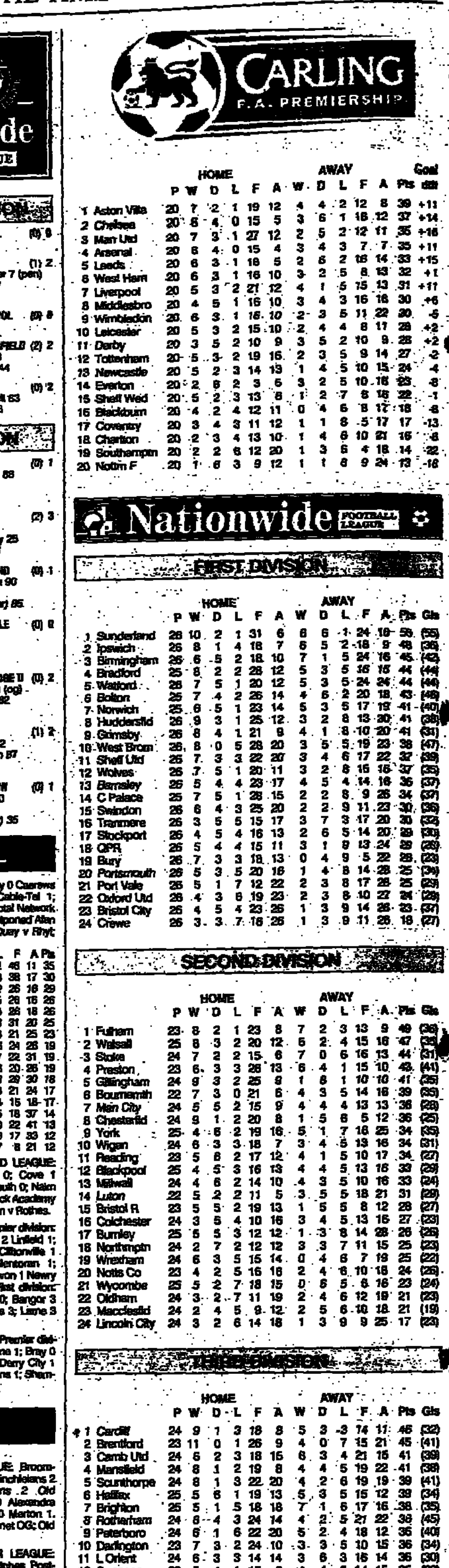
RYMAN

DR MARTENS

NATIONAL

CONFERENCE

POOLS CHECK



CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Aston Villa	20	7	2	1	19	12	4	4	2	12	8	39	+11
2 Chelsea	20	6	4	0	15	5	3	6	1	16	12	37	+14
3 Man Utd	20	7	3	1	27	12	2	5	2	12	11	35	+16
4 Arsenal	20	6	4	0	15	4	3	4	3	7	7	35	+11
5 Leeds	20	6	3	1	18	5	2	6	2	16	14	33	+15
6 West Ham	20	6	3	1	16	10	3	2	5	8	13	32	+1
7 Liverpool	20	5	3	2	21	12	4	1	5	15	13	31	+11
8 Middlesbro	20	4	5	1	16	10	3	4	3	16	16	30	+6
9 Wimbledon	20	6	3	1	16	10	2	3	5	11	22	30	-5
10 Leicester	20	5	3	2	15	10	2	4	4	8	11	28	+2
11 Derby	20	3	5	2	10	9	3	5	2	10	9	28	+2
12 Tottenham	20	5	3	2	19	16	2	3	5	9	14	27	-2
13 Newcastle	20	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	5	10	15	24	-4
14 Everton	20	2	6	2	3	5	3	2	5	10	16	23	-8
15 Sheff Wed	20	5	2	3	13	8	1	2	7	8	16	22	-1
16 Blackburn	20	4	2	4	12	11	0	4	6	8	17	18	-8
17 Coventry	20	3	4	3	11	12	1	1	8	5	17	17	-13
18 Charlton	20	2	3	4	13	10	1	4	6	10	21	16	-8
19 Southampton	20	2	2	6	12	20	1	3	6	4	18	14	-22
20 Nottm F	20	1	6	3	9	12	1	1	8	9	24	13	-16

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	26	10	2	1	31	6	6	6	1	24	10	56	(55)
2 Ipswich	26	8	1	4	18	7	6	5	2	18	9	48	(36)
3 Birmingham	26	6	5	2	18	10	7	1	5	24	16	45	(42)
4 Bradford	25	8	2	2	28	12	5	3	5	16	15	44	(44)
5 Watford	26	7	5	1	20	12	5	3	5	24	24	44	(44)
6 Bolton	25	7	4	2	26	14	4	6	2	20	18	43	(46)
7 Norwich	25	6	5	1	23	14	5	3	5	17	19	41	(40)
8 Huddersfld	26	9	3	1	25	12	3	2	8	13	30	41	(38)
9 Grimsby	26	8	4	1	21	9	4	1	8	10	20	41	(31)
10 West Brom	26	8	0	5	28	20	3	5	5	19	23	38	(47)
11 Sheff Utd	26	7	3	3	22	20	3	4	6	17	22	37	(39)
12 Wolves	26	7	5	1	20	11	3	2	8	15	16	37	(35)
13 Barnsley	26	5	4	4	23	17	4	5	4	14	16	36	(37)
14 C Palace	25	7	5	1	28	15	2	2	8	9	26	34	(37)
15 Swindon	26	6	4	3	25	20	2	2	9	11	23	30	(36)
16 Tranmere	26	3	5	5	15	17	3	7	3	17	20	30	(32)
17 Stockport	26	4	5	4	16	13	2	6	5	14	20	29	(30)
18 QPR	26	5	4	4	15	11	3	1	9	13	24	29	(28)
19 Bury	26	7	3	3	18	13	0	4	9	5	22	28	(23)
20 Portsmouth	26	5	3	5	20	16	1	4	8	14	28	25	(34)
21 Port Vale	26	5	1	7	12	22	2	3	8	17	28	25	(29)
22 Oxford Utd	26	4	3	6	19	23	2	3	8	10	27	24	(29)
23 Bristol City	26	4	5	4	23	26	1	3	9	14	28	23	(37)
24 Crewe	26	3	3	7	16	26	1	3	9	11	28	18	(27)

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	23	8	2	1	23	8	7	2	3	13	9	49	(36)
2 Walsall	25	8	3	2	20	12	6	2	4	15	16	47	(35)
3 Stoke	24	7	2	2	15	6	7	0	6	16	13	44	(31)
4 Preston	23	6	3	3	26	13	6	4	1	15	10	43	(41)
5 Gillingham	24	9	3	2	25	9	1	8	1	10	10	41	(35)
6 Bournemth	22	7	3	0	21	6	4	3	5	14	16	39	(35)
7 Man City	24	5	5	2	15	9	4	4	4	13	13	36	(28)
8 Chesterfld	24	9	1	2	20	8	1	5	6	5	12	36	(25)
9 York	25	4	6	2	19	16	5	1	7	16	25	34	(35)
10 Wigan	24	6	3	3	18	7	3	4	5	13	16	34	(31)
11 Reading	23	5	6	2	17	12	4	1	5	10	17	34	(27)
12 Blackpool	25	4	5	3	16	13	4	4	5	13	16	33	(29)
13 Millwall	24	4	6	2	14	10	4	3	5	10	16	33	(24)
14 Luton	22	5	2	2	11	5	3	5	5	18	21	31	(29)
15 Bristol R	23	5	5	2	19	13	1	5	5	8	12	28	(27)
16 Colchester	24	3	5	4	10	16	3	4	5	13	16	27	(23)
17 Burnley	25	5	5	3	12	12	1	3	8	14	28	26	(26)
18 Northmptn	24	2	7	2	12	12	3	3	7	11	15	25	(23)
19 Wrexham	24	6	3	5	15	14	0	4	6	7	19	25	(22)
20 Notts Co	23	4	2	5	16	16	2	4	6	10	18	24	(26)
21 Wycombe	25	5	2	7	18	15	0	6	5	6	16	23	(24)
22 Oldham	24	3	2	7	11	19	2	4	6	12	19	21	(23)
23 Macclesfld	24	2	4	5	9	12	2	5	6	10	18	21	(19)
24 Lincoln City	24	3	2	6	14	18	1	3	9	9	25	17	(23)

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	24	9	1	3	18	8	5	3	3	14	11	46	(32)
2 Brentford	23	11	0	1	26	9	4	0	7	15	21	45	(41)
3 Camb Utd	24	6	2	3	18	15	6	3	4	21	15	41	(39)
4 Mansfield	24	8	1	2	19	8	4	4	5	19	22	41	(38)
5 Scunthorpe	24	8	1	3	22	20	4	2	6	19	19	39	(41)
6 Halifax	25	5	6	1	19	13	5	3	5	15	12	39	(34)
7 Brighton	25	5	1	5	18	18	7	1	6	17	16	38	(35)
8 Rotherham	24	6	4	3	24	14	4	2	5	21	22	36	(45)
9 Peterboro	24	6	1	6	22	20	5	2	4	18	12	36	(40)
10 Darlington	23	7	3	2	24	10	3	3	5	10	15	36	(34)
11 L Orient	24	6	3	3	14	14	3	6	3	16	14	36	(30)
12 Swansea	23	5	4	1	15	8	4	4	5	14	15	35	(29)
13 Plymouth	23	6	2	3	15	9	4	2	6	12	12	34	(27)
14 Chester	24	2	8	2	13	15	5	3	4	19	18	32	(32)
15 Rochdale	24	5	4	2	11	9	3	4	6	12	18	32	(23)
16 Southend	25	5	3	4	16	12	3	4	6	15	23	31	(31)
17 Exeter	24	7	2	3	15	8	1	4	7	10	19	30	(25)
18 Torquay	25	4	7	2	16	11	2	4	6	12	21	29	(28)
19 Barnet	25	5	2	5	17	23	3	2	8	13	22	28	(30)
20 Shrewsbury	25	5	4	4	17	19	2	3	7	5	14	28	(22)
21 Hartlepool	25	4	3	6	21	21	3	2	7	13	20	26	(34)
22 Carlisle	23	5	3	6	13	12	1	4	5	6	15	25	(21)
23 Scarboro	24	3	2	7	16	21	3	1	8	10	20	21	(26)
24 Hull	24	3	1	9	11	21	1	2	8	10	24	15	(21)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Rangers	20	8	2	0	17	4	5	2	3	20	13	43	+20
2 Kilmarnock	21	7	3	1	19	6	4	4	2	11	6	40	+18
3 Celtic	20	7	2	1	29	6	2	4	4	13	14	33	+22
4 St Johnstn	22	4	5	2	18	16	4	4	3	10	12	33	0
5 Motherwell	22	6	3	3	16	11	0	5	5	6	18	26	-6
6 Hearts	22	6	1	4	17	13	0	5	6	5	18	24	-7
7 Aberdeen	22	3	4	3	12	13	3	2	7	11	22	24	-12
8 Dundee	21	3	3	5	9	15	3	2	5	11	17	23	-12
9 Dundee Utd	22	1	6	3	7	10	4	1	7	15	17	22	-5
10 Dunfermline	22	2	6	3	11	14	0	6	5	6	19	18	-16

*Not including Last night's result

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Hibernian	22	10	1	1	30	10	5	4	1	19	13	50	+26
2 Falkirk	22	6	5	1	18	11	6	1	3	19	10	42	+16
3 Ayr	22	6	2	3	32	15	6	1	4	13	13	39	+17
4 Airdrie	22	4	2	5	12	16	7	3	1	18	8	38	+6
5 St Mirren	21	5	1	4	10	15	3	4	4	7	10	29	-8
6 Clydebank	21	3	3	3	8	8	3	5	4	12	17	26	-5
7 Hamilton	21	2	5	3	11	13	3	3	5	14	19	23	-7
8 G Morton	21	2	3	6	11	15	3	2	5	10	11	20	-5
9 Raith	22	2	4	5	8	14	2	4	5	14	21	20	-13
10 Stranraer	22	1	1	9	10	18	2	0	9	10	28	10	-27

SECOND DIVISION

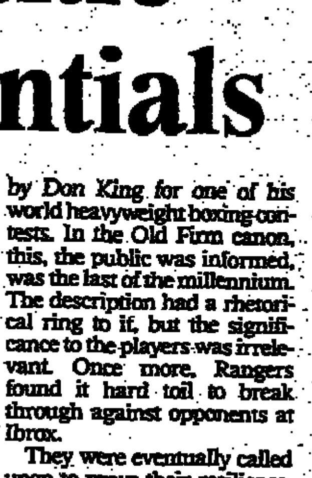
		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Livingston	20	7	3	0	16	6	6	3	1	22	15	45	+17
2 Inverness C	20	7	2	0	23	14	4	3	4	18	17	38	+10
3 Clyde	20	7	2	2	20	9	2	4	3	8	11	33	+8
4 Stirling	20	5	0	4	15	12	4	3	4	16	21	30	-2
5 Partick	20	5	1	4	11	10	4	1	5	10	12	29	-1
6 Alloa	20	6	3	2	31	14	2	1	6	13	17	28	+13
7 Arbroath	19	4	2	4	9	13	3	2	4	10	11	25	-5
8 East Fife	20	3	2	5	14	21	3	2	5	12	18	22	-13
9 Queen of S	20	3	5	2	13	10	0	1	9	7	19	15	-9
10 Forfar	19	1	2	6	10	16	1	2	7	9	21	10	-18

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Ross County	20	8	0	3	21	7	7	1	1	29	13	46	+30
2 Brechin	19	5	4	1	11	5	6	2	1	13	8	39	+11
3 Stenhsmuir	20	4	1	5	17	16	6	3	1	15	5	34	+11
4 Dumbarton	19	3	2	5	13	14	5	2	2	13	7	28	+4
5 Albion	20	4	1	5	13	22	4	2	4	11	14	27	-12
6 Berwick	19	4	2	4	15	14	1	7	1	8	9	24	0
7 Queen's Pk	20	3	4	2	11	9	2	2	7	12	16	21	-2
8 East Stirling	20	1	6	2	10	10	2	3	6	14	17	18	-3
9 Cowdenbth	20	3	1	6	13	16	2	2	6	7	18	18	-15
10 Montrose	19	2	4	3	11	13	1	1	8	7	26	14	-23

Old Firm fixture provides a break from the norm as extravagance takes over

Celtic able to draw on title credentials



Rangers	2
Celtic	2

BY KEVIN McCARRA

WITH a draw that guards a ten-point advantage over Celtic, with the winter break beginning, the greatest prize in this Old Firm fixture was collected by Rangers. Calculations, though, will also have to register the fact that Celtic, unbeaten in three matches with their rivals this season, are far from being inferior when the sides come face to face. An atmosphere of the utmost hostility only proved their worth.

Celtic had beard the storm warning. After a 5-1 defeat in the previous Old Firm match, Rangers were bound to be the human equivalent of a gale and the visitors' tactics were akin to boarding up windows. Jozef Venglos, the Celtic manager, had abandoned the normal formation, preferring to play three centre backs, while detailing Riseth and Mahe to stay wide and mark the wingers, Kanchelskis and McCann.

For a long period, Celtic huddled behind the closed doors, listening to the roof creak and fearing that the walls might come tumbling down. Rangers certainly had their opportunities to inflict structural damage in the opening half-hour, and yet this match, if the noise from the stands was ignored, bore a strong resemblance to several routine fixtures seen on this ground in recent months.

So grandiose was the billing of the fixture that the text might have beeen composed by Don King for one of his world heavyweight boxing contests. In the Old Firm canon, this, the public was informed, was the last of the millennium. The description had a rhetorical ring to it, but the significance to the players was irrelevant. Once more, Rangers found it hard toil to break through against opponents at Ibrox.

They were eventually called upon to prove their resilience, after falling behind, but it had looked, for a time, as if they would require only patience. In that spell, Celtic rarely pieced together an attack that would give the defence a few moments to catch its breath. The decisions made by Venglos were open to question, so long as Celtic were so beleaguered.

The 5-1 match in November had been presided over by Moravcik while playing as a forward, instead of filling his usual role in midfield. The same ploy was attempted last night, but it was as if Celtic were striving to fool Rangers with an old card trick. The Ibrox side, no longer baffled by it, pressed hard on Moravcik and drove him back into harmless positions.

Several attempts on goal by the Rangers side whizzed around the target, one from Rod Wallace that was beaten away by Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, and the riposte from Celtic, after 25 minutes, was freakish rather than measured as Mahe clipped the far post with a mis-hit cross. Nonetheless, the vehemence of Rangers had its natural limits and, after 30 minutes had passed, Venglos's team were able to show that they could use the ball for far more than desperate clearances.

PHOTOGRAPHS: IAN STEWART



Gabriel Amato, the Rangers forward, who went on to score his side's first goal, is brought down by Tommy Boyd, the Celtic defender

Seven minutes from the interval, Celtic took an unexpected lead. Amoruso was weak with his header when clearing a free kick and, worse still, found that he had put Moravcik in possession. The Slovakian sidestepped a challenge, opening up the space from which Stubbs found the far corner of the net with a smoothly flighted, curling shot.

These contests, of course, are of an unstable nature and Stubbs will have known that his hold on the title of his club's hero could slip away. He was to bear part of the blame when Rangers equalised in the last minute of the first half. Others, too, were at fault, with Mjallby leaving his position to embark on a headstrong run that saw him dispossessed far from his penalty area.

Rangers channelled play down the left and McCann dropped a tempting cross into the goalmouth. Stubbs was disorientated for the moment that allowed Gabriel Amato to head home fiercely. The transformation of the Argentinian's reputation, however, had only just begun.

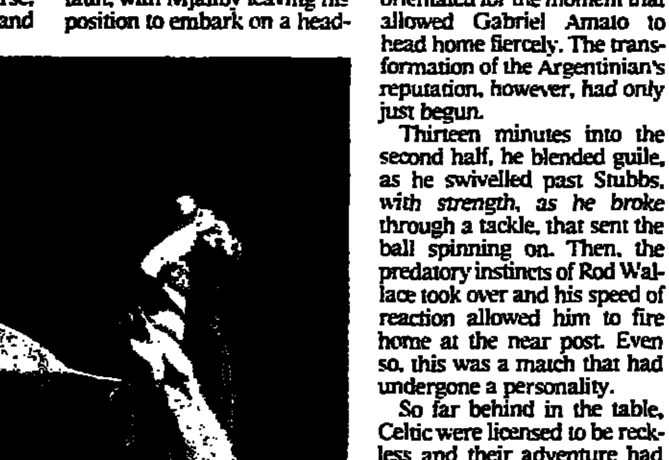
Thirteen minutes into the second half, he blended guile, as he swivelled past Stubbs, with strength, as he broke through a tackle, that sent the ball spinning on. Then, the predatory instincts of Rod Wallace took over and his speed of reaction allowed him to fire home at the near post. Even so, this was a match that had undergone a personality.

So far behind in the table, Celtic were licensed to be reckless and their adventure had been threatening. In the 55th minute, Mahe had slipped round Kanchelskis and, attempting to recover, the Ukrainian appeared to bring down the wing-back. Jim McCluskey, the referee, spurned the penalty appeals, choosing to award a corner.

In the 65th minute, though, Celtic did strike. Moravcik's well-executed 20-yard strike crashed against the face of the crossbar and, with Stefan Klos scrambling back after his unavailing dive, Larsson's slightly miscued header took the ball into the net. A game of exuberant mayhem had broken out, with Stubbs's header against the bar, after a Moravcik corner in the 65th minute, providing the most dramatic of several opportunities for either team.

Rarely has deadlock been so enthralling.

RANGERS (4-4-2): S Klos — S Porrini, C Hendry, L Amoruso, A Vidmar — A Kanchelskis (sub: J Albertz, 60min), B Ferguson, G van Bronckhorst, N McCann (sub: J Johansson, 71) — R Wallace, G Amato.
CELTIC (3-5-2): J Gould — T Boyd, J Mjallby, A Stubbs — S Mahe, V Riseth, J McNamara, P Lambert, P O'Donnell — L Moravcik, H Larsson.
Referee: J McCluskey



Amato screams his elation after scoring for Rangers in the Old Firm game at Ibrox

Sturrock wants a future like the past

BY PHIL GORDON

NOSTALGIA can sometimes be more of a burden than a comfort, yet Dundee United supporters are beginning to experience a warm feeling of security in seeing Paul Sturrock patrolling the touchline once more.

The talismanic player who prompted much of the Tannadice club's success at home and abroad during the 1980s no longer possesses the impish look of the playground with his socks flapping at his ankles. These days, Sturrock wears a suit, but the influence could be just as crucial.

The Dundee United manager chose the scene of the club's finest hour, Dens Park, to provide what he hopes is the watershed in United's wretched season. The ground, belonging to city rivals Dundee, has always held a special place in United hearts since they claimed the Scottish Premier League title there in May 1983.

Sixteen years on, another enjoyable day out at the neighbours — United's players walked the 170 yards from Tannadice to Dens Park before their 3-1 victory on Saturday — could put an end to United looking back in anger, and, instead to a brighter future.

Had Dundee won the 101st Tayside derby, they would have imposed a seven-point gap over their rivals, whose present mediocrity only heightens their achievements of a decade ago. Then, United were a side feared throughout Europe, one which handed out humiliation in the Nou Camp and Monaco as they reached the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1984 and were Uefa Cup finalists in 1987.

Yet they have always fared better when looking closer to home. Sturrock's unbroken tenure as a United player meant he was as much a favourite son of Jim McLean, the architect of those glories as manager and now the club chairman, as much as the supporters.

McLean took Sturrock "home" from St Johnstone three months ago, after sacking his own brother, Tommy, whose labouring team were recalling memories of an ignominious relegation four years ago.

Sturrock has had little luck since taking charge, and indeed his side remains second from bottom despite the derby success, but just as important as securing a first league win since October was the fact that it drew Dundee back to within a point going into the winter shutdown.

"This was the biggest game I have been involved in since becoming manager," admitted Sturrock. "It was crucial to win. It has been a traumatic 1998 for the fans and we can only hope 1999 is better."

Back in 1983, Sturrock skipped across the Dens Park mud to torment Dundee, but these days the chubbier figure uses his brain instead of his legs. He dropped Alex Mathie and allowed the robust teenager, Steven Thompson, to partner Billy Dodds, in attack. The pair provided United with a 2-0 lead inside 16 minutes and Kjell Olofsson's sublime volley sealing the victory.

Aberdeen, who sold Dodds three months ago, could have done with the Scotland player. They slumped to a 4-1 defeat at St Johnstone despite taking the lead through Jamie Buchan, son of former Manchester United captain, Martin. John O'Neil, the St Johnstone forward who missed a penalty last week at Rangers, atoned with two fine goals.

Paul Hegarty, the Aberdeen caretaker-manager, remained upbeat about his chances of replacing Alex Miller on a full-time basis, despite the defeat. It was the team's first defeat in five games since Hegarty was put in charge.

"It is up to the chairman and the directors to decide in their own time," he said. "I know that up until 4.45pm on Saturday they were delighted with me. But I don't know what a win would have done, just as I don't know what the defeat has done.

"Look over the records and see how many other teams have ten points out of the last five games. I remain content with my own ability to do the job and this week I am heading down south to look at players. I am really upset with the manner in which we lost. It was self-inflicted."

Heart of Midlothian and Dunfermline played out a predictable goalless draw and both teams have now gone six games without a win. Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, is delighted that the Premier League is closing down until January 30.

"I was without ten of my first-team squad because of injury and suspension," he said. "Now that we have the break, I expect to have players of quality back when we resume and that should give a new cutting edge to the team."

TENNIS

Sampras gambles in pursuit of title record

BY JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

PETE SAMPRAS has taken a calculated gamble in his decision to miss the Australian Open, the first grand-slam tournament of the season, which starts in Melbourne on January 18. It will be the first blue riband event that Sampras has missed for seven years.

Sampras, claiming "mental and physical exhaustion," thus eschews an opportunity to match Roy Emerson's record haul of 12 grand-slam titles. Instead the American, who has never reached the final of the French Open on clay, puts all his eggs into the Wimbledon and US Open baskets as he resumes his record quest.

Sampras, 27, warned that he would cut back his tournament commitments after a hectic 1998 schedule saw him retain his world No 1 status for the sixth consecutive year. To do that he was obliged to contest six successive events in Europe — and seven in eight weeks — between October and December. That represented a debilitating workload for a man who has always paced himself through the season.

Twice the Australian Open champion, in 1994 and three years later, Sampras's reasons for missing Melbourne are doubtless rooted in his performance there last year. After a late-season injury in the 1997 Davis Cup final, the American was underprepared before he succumbed to Karol Kucera in the quarter-finals. He then lost his motivation, which only returned when he won Wimbledon for the fifth time in July.



Sampras: exhausted

Sampras has regularly protested that he is obliged to play too much tennis in a calendar year. However, having trumped Jimmy Connors's record of five successive years as world No 1, Sampras has clearly redefined his priorities for 1999. He recently confirmed that he will not represent the United States in the Davis Cup, thus ruling himself out of the world group first-round tie against Great Britain in April.

Amanda Coetzer and Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, dashed the hopes of a boisterous home crowd on Sunday when they disposed of their Australia opponents 2-1 in the opening session of the Hopman Cup mixed-team tournament. Coetzer set off at a cracking pace and overwhelmed Jelena Dokic 6-1, 6-0 in just 47 minutes.

Ferreira then secured the tie, much to the disappointment of 7,500 fans in the Burswood Dome, by eclipsing Mark Philippoussis 6-2, 6-3. The Australia pair, who cannot afford to lose another tie in the round-robin phase if they are to qualify for the final next Saturday, salvaged some pride by claiming the dead mixed doubles rubber 6-2, 6-3.

Wiseman's appeal to fall on deaf ears

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

KEITH WISEMAN, the Football Association chairman, is expected to be voted out of office at a meeting of the full FA council in London today. Although he will give an impassioned defence of his role in the controversial loan to the Football Association of Wales (FAW), which resulted in the resignation of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, last month, his appeal is likely to fall on deaf ears.

Wiseman will face the 91 members of the council and explain why he and Kelly unilaterally sanctioned a grant of £3.2 million — later reduced to £900,000 — to the FAW. A skilful orator, well-versed in the art of persuasion, he is then expected to make a token offer of resignation.

If it is rejected, it is believed that the ten-strong executive committee, which has passed a motion of no-confidence in him, will stand down en masse — throwing the FA into chaos and confusion. If it is accepted, as widely expected, the race to succeed Wiseman will start in earnest.

Geoff Thompson, the FA vice-chairman, was beaten to the post by Wiseman in July 1996 but would receive strong support from large sections of the amateur game. David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich Town chairman, former Football League chairman and also a member of the executive committee, is highly regarded by the more progressive elements within the FA.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, made it known in typically forthright fashion last week that he would be willing to take the job in a caretaker capacity. "There are two main problems to be attacked," he said yesterday. "First, the way the FA is run day-to-day and, secondly, the council and how it operates."

Blatter receives criticism

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE BIGGEST shake-up in the history of international football has been launched by Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, who has announced proposals to hold the World Cup finals every two years.

The plan is being studied by the world governing body's executive committee, and, if agreed, would herald a complete change of international competition.

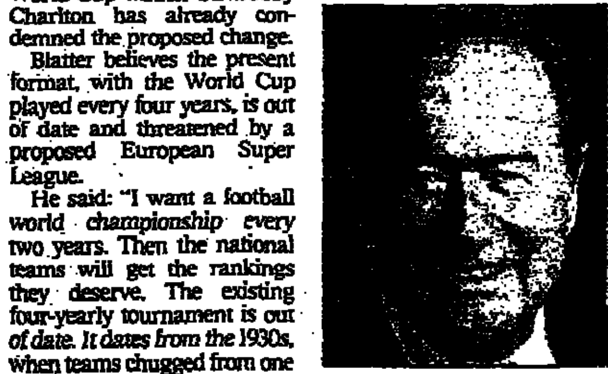
The move is guaranteed to be controversial, and England World Cup winner Sir Bobby Charlton has already condemned the proposed change.

Blatter believes the present format, with the World Cup played every four years, is out of date and threatened by a proposed European Super League.

He said: "I want a football world championship every two years. Then the national teams will get the rankings they deserve. The existing four-yearly tournament is out of date. It dates from the 1930s, when teams chugged from one continent to another on ships."

Charlton said a move to a biennial tournament would be "very sad".

"I don't see how they could do that because there wouldn't be time to qualify," he said. "My own personal feeling is that every four years is often enough because it's something to look forward to. You have to wait for it and it increases the whole value of it. I just hope it's not based on finance.



Blatter: bold proposals

"When it comes from Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, you take it seriously because he won't have said it lightly. But my own feeling is that it wouldn't have the same attraction."

Blatter's plan would see qualification for the finals take place in odd-numbered years when national teams would take part in continental tournaments.

It would mean the present European championships format would have to be scrapped and perhaps become a qualifying competition.

Any changes could not come into force before 2006 — when England are bidding to stage the tournament.

Alec McGivan, director of the England 2006 campaign, and Steve Double, the Football Association spokesman, both gave a cautious reaction to the proposals, while the Scottish FA called them unworkable.

McGivan said: "It is an interesting idea but it would need to be looked at very carefully."

Bassett quick to deny departure

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVE BASSETT promised to continue as the Nottingham Forest manager yesterday and warned that reports of his departure were wide of the mark. Bassett was furious after a local radio station reported that he had resigned after his side's FA Cup exit at home to Portsmouth.

Angry fans chanted for Bassett and the Forest board to be sacked after the 1-0 defeat to the first division strugglers, that comes just days after the club extended its dire run in the FA Carling Premiership to 17 matches without a win.

But Bassett insisted, despite his non-appearance at the post-match press conference, that he was just feeling ill and has no intention of quitting. "I have not quit, I have not resigned," he said. "If people want to think that if you don't win, then you resign then that is their interpretation, but they have got it completely wrong. They obviously don't know me."

John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday, even though Alan Thompson, the left-sided midfield player, will be sidelined for a month.

Gregory admitted that he initially thought that Thompson had broken his ankle in a freak training ground accident at the club's Bodymoor Heath complex on Friday, but his £4.5 million summer-signing from Bolton Wanderers was diagnosed as suffering damaged ligaments.

"I really feared the worst at first," he said. "We all thought he had broken it with the way he went down and was screaming with pain."

Gregory will not make any new signings to compensate for the loss of Thompson and feels he has sufficient strength in depth with Ian Taylor set to return after a groin strain.

Welling continue recovery

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

WELLING United showed the resilience for which they are renowned by battling to a stirring 2-1 victory over Dover Athletic in the Football Conference at Crabble on Saturday.

Having hit their lowest ebb when losing 3-0 at home to Dover on Boxing Day, an eleventh match without a win, Welling had stopped the rot last Monday with victory at Hayes.

Kevin Hales, the manager, said: "I think I must have read a book on Houdini. The Boxing Day defeat was a very poor performance by everybody. Straight after the game, we had a meeting for about 45 minutes to try and air our differences. It was heat-of-the-moment stuff and gave players the chance to say things that they might not have said if it was held a day or two afterwards."

The benefits were clear on Saturday as Welling shrugged off going behind to a goal by Carruthers in the second minute and a bad miss by Dereck Brown soon afterwards. In the second half Brown played in a pass turned into his net by Munday and then Stafford Browne, restored to favour after the Boxing Day debacle, scored the winner. "We can't wait for Saturday now," Hales said. Forest Green Rovers, beware.

RUGBY UNION

West finally take pleasure in home comforts

West Hartlepool 21
Wasps..............................17

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE crowd was barely a thousand, but Victoria Park resonated yesterday to the first home victory there by West Hartlepool, normally the whipping boys of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Moreover, it was achieved against a Wasps side that contained 12 internationals who had humiliated the bottom side by a record 71-14 three months previously.

It was a devastating display by a team who had last won at home in the first division in January 1997 at Brierton Lane, their old home, against Orrell. Mike Brewer, the West director of rugby, had been promising a "big one" and he and his charges memorably delivered at the expense of a Wasps side who had won on their past four league outings and were pressing Leicester and Northampton, the leaders.

"Hartlepool United get Peter Beardsley one day and West win the next," one delighted supporter said. If West do manage to stay up in their own right or via the play-offs, they will reflect on this second victory as the turning-point. Wasps, who have dropped back to fourth place, urgently need to expunge the memory of this embarrassment when they meet Saracens at home on Wednesday.

West's only other win in nine league encounters with Wasps was at their former home in 1994. Last September, they suffered horribly at Loftus Road as the London side ran in ten tries. It was a case yesterday of the biter bit in the sort of revenge scarcely thought possible, until the first concerted drive by the home side hinted at something special. By half-time, West led 12-5 and the London side had spent all but a few minutes under siege, with few clues how to lift it. The second half saw no respite. Brewer led by example in the pack, West's defence across the pitch was impregnable for all but a few minutes at the end, and at full back, Emmet Farrell typified the defiant spirit and attacking invention.

West, a constant danger attacking down the short side, also put Josh Lewsey under enormous pressure by the superbly executed kick-and-chase tactic of Steven Vile. After missing an early penalty, Vile put the ball into the corner, from where Philippe Farner grabbed possession at the lineout. Brewer drove in and the rest of the forwards carried James Ponton over the line.

Not only was it the first league try Wasps had conceded in three matches, it set the tone for a vibrant encounter. In order to try to stay up, West have invested wisely in such experienced practitioners from New Zealand as Duane Monkley and Shane McDonald, one a back-row forward who punches his weight, the other a hooker, although the scrum was where their one weakness was exploited.

Results and tables..............38

Three times, Kenny Logan threw down his place-kicking tee in disgust after straightforward misses. This waywardness was symptomatic of Wasps performance, until a series of six scrums on the West line. At tight-head prop, Steve Sparks was obviously struggling against Alex Le Chevalier, leading to a push-over score for Peter Scrivener, who was at the heart of the few things that Wasps got right.

One of the biggest cheers was reserved for Lawrence Dallaglio as the England captain tamely punted out on the full and Wasps were again caught out at the end of the half by a beautiful move between Peter Tanginoa and Vile. Although they stopped the latter, their defence was stretched as Tu Nu'uali'itia dug out the ruck ball and Emmet Farrell looped out a long pass for Toby Handley, normally a scrum half but pressed into service on the wing, to score.

Dallaglio, unusually quiet, looked to make up for his earlier error after the restart, but the pass that sent Rob Henderson clear on the left was forward. That was as close as Wasps come to troubling West as Vile steered over a couple of penalties, Farrell dropped a goal and late tries in reply by Dinos Alexopolous and Nick Greenstock failed to rob West of their moment of triumph.

In a division that is showing genuine competitiveness from top to bottom, Brewer was naturally delighted by the broken duck at home. "The game-plan was to put the ball in the corners to make them turn and for us to come up with our first-time tackles. I'm sure they'd never come up against a kicking game like that this season," he said.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Ponton (5min), Handley (39). **Conversion:** Vile. **Penalty goals:** Vile 2 (58, 69). **Dropped goal:** Farrell (60). **Wasps: Tries:** Scrivener (25), Alexopolous (74), Greenstock (84). **Conversion:** Logan.
SCORING SEQUENCE (West Hartlepool first): 7-0, 7-5, 12-5 (half-time), 15-5, 18-5, 21-5, 21-12, 21-17.
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell; J Benson, S John, P Tanginoa, T Handley; S Vile, T Nu'uali'itia, J J van der Esch (rep: P Beal, 70min), S McDonald, S Sparks, P Farner, T Collier (rep: M Salter, 80), J Ponton, D Monkley, M Brewer.
WASPS: J Lewsey; P Sampson, L Scrase, R Henderson (rep: N Greenstock, 56), K Logan; A King, M Wood (rep: A Gomarsall, 56); A Le Chevalier, D Macer (rep: D Alexopolous, 66), W Green, M Weedon, S Shaw (rep: A Reed, 65), L Dallaglio, P Volley, P Scrivener (rep: E Rollitt, 61).
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).


Sparks, the West Hartlepool forward, launches another attack against Wasps yesterday

Understrength Saracens encounter little resistance

Saracens 44
Bedford............................13

BY BARNEY SPENDER

AFTER their shock defeat by London Scottish a week ago, normal service was resumed at Vicarage Road yesterday as Saracens, despite being below strength, ran in six tries in a convincing victory over their struggling neighbours from Bedford.

With Wasps slipping up at West Hartlepool, it was enough to lift them to third place in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but the manner of their win was still some distance from the kind of form that might see them pressurising the leaders come the run-in to the championship.

"We still have a long way to go in that department," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, said. "The title race is not as open as it was a few weeks ago, but we have still to play Leicester and Northampton away, so it's going to be very tough."

Their task is certainly made harder by the injury list. Without Kyran Bracken and Alain Penaud, their half backs, they struggled for continuity behind the scrum and with Pienaar also confined to the sidelines, there appeared to be a general lack of communication.

Gavin Johnson, the regular full back but drafted into Penaud's position for this match, kicked two penalty goals and four conversions and grew in confidence as the game progressed.

It was indicative, however, of Saracens' state of health that only when Paul Turner, their 39-year-old backs coach who was recruited from Bedford at the beginning of the season, came on after an hour did they turn control into outright dominance.

The extent of the dead leg that is keeping Pienaar out of action remains a cause for concern, although he is expected to play against Wasps on Wednesday.

Even so, Saracens were just too strong. The players had been given a pep talk by Nigel Wray, the club owner, during the week, but it was probably the half-time words from Pienaar that produced the more immediate impact.

After a scrappy first half that brought them a couple of penalties from Johnson and a fine try by Richard Wallace, the result of a searing break by Ryan Constable, Saracens cut loose. Leading 13-6, they increased their lead after five minutes. Brendon Daniel, a constant menace on the right wing, set off down the touchline and was bundled into touch just short of the line. Troy Coker claimed the lineout and when he was held up, Paddy Johns, a half-time replacement, scooped up and scored.

Three minutes later, when Daniel danced his way through four tacklers to make it 27-6, the game looked up but a lapse by Matt Singer, whose chip over the top went straight to Junior Paramore, gave Bedford some hope. Saracens, though, increased the pressure and in the last 20 minutes Danny Grewcock went over twice and Marcus Olsen once.

It was hard not to feel a measure of sympathy for Rudolf Straeuli, the Bedford coach, who has an almost impossible job in making his team competitive. They have a core of good players but with the assets of the owner, Frank Warren, still frozen pending his court case with Don King,


Grewcock: two tries

the question of finance and its impact on morale is a sticky issue. Straeuli would not be drawn when asked if the club was being run on a week-by-week basis.

"There is some light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "But there is still no news on the financial side and on the playing side, well, Hartlepool winning has not helped us. I think people can see that we are committed and that we deserve to be in the first division. We just need to win a few and we have to stay positive."

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: R Wallace (31min), Johns (45), Daniel (48), Grewcock (62, 70), Olsen (76). **Conversions:** Johnson 4. **Penalty goals:** Johnson 2 (5, 7). **Bedford: Try:** Paramore (51). **Conversions:** Yapp. **Penalty goals:** Yapp 2 (34, 36).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 3-0, 6-0, 13-0, 13-3, 13-6 (half-time), 20-6, 27-6, 27-13, 34-13, 39-13, 44-13.
SARACENS: M Singer (rep: P Turner, 63min); B Daniel (rep: B Free, 80), R Constable, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace; G Johnson (rep: J Thomson, 72), M Olsen; D Flatman (rep: A Olver, 72), G Chuter (rep: G Botterman, 71), P Wallace, C Yandell (rep: P Johns, 40), D Grewcock, T Coker (rep: P Ogilvie, 62), R Hill, A Diprose.
BEDFORD: B Whetstone; R Underwood, A Murdoch, D Harris, D O'Mahony, T Yapp, R Elliott; A Ozdemir, J Richards, C Boyd, D Zaltzman (rep: J Beardshaw, 62; rep: V Hartland, 74), S Murray, J Cockle (rep: R Winters, 52), J Forster, J Paramore.
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

Reivers have too much ammunition for rivals

Edinburgh Reivers............33
Glasgow Caledonians.........3

BY ALASDAIR REID

SCOTLAND'S two super-district sides face uncertain futures, but there were no doubts about their respective strengths at Netherdale, Galashiels, yesterday. In winning the last of their three matches this season, thus taking the Tennent's Velvet Tri-Series 2-1, Edinburgh Reivers proved that they had faster backs, more abrasive forwards and an efficiency near the line that Glasgow Caledonians never remotely matched.

Those qualities brought them four tries although Caledonians were culpable in turning the ball over too easily. "We must have given it up about 20 times," Keith Robertson, the Caledonians coach, said. "If you lose the ball like that, you don't deserve to win."

The first half ended with Reivers 13-3 ahead, but it was a drab and humdrum affair. The promise offered by a sprightly start disappeared in the mud and negativity that was on offer. Maddeningly, with Reivers enjoying a welter of possession, too much of it was kicked away — and not particularly well, either.

Even the opening try, by Cameron Mather in the seventh minute, was an unspectacularly workmanlike effort. Martin Leslie, the No 8, was held up over the line when he charged from a lineout in the left corner. At the resultant scrum, Leslie picked up and drove again, offloading cleverly to put Mather through.

In fairness, a lot of credit for stifling the Reivers' backs should also to be given to Caledonians' international midfield of John Leslie and Ian Jardine, who tackled relentlessly. Only when they were drawn out of position by wave after wave of Reivers attacks, was their line exposed again, Duncan Hodge spearing over near the posts in the 49th minute after Mather, Hastings and Chalmers had combined to create the space.

Hodge, the victim of a late shoulder-charge that earned Tommy Hayes only a brief lecture from Clayton Thomas, the referee, gained belated revenge by landing his third penalty of the game in the seventieth minute and his fourth three minutes later. His conversion of John Kerr's final try completed another hugely satisfying perfomance by the Scotland fly half.

SCORERS: Edinburgh Reivers: Tries: Mather (7), Hodge (49), Kerr (79). **Conversions:** Hodge 3. **Penalty goals:** Hodge 4 (14, 29, 70, 73). **Glasgow Caledonians: Penalty goal:** Smith (4).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Edinburgh Reivers first): 0-3, 7-3, 10-3, 13-3 (half-time), 20-3, 23-3, 26-3, 33-3.
EDINBURGH REIVERS: S Hastings; A Stanger, A Tait, C Chalmers, C Murray; D Hodge (rep: J Kerr, 76min), I Fairley; R McNulty (rep: P Wright, 78), S Brotherstone (rep: G McKelvey, 66), B Stewart, D Burns (rep: C Hogg, 69), I Fullarton, C Mather, I Sinclair (rep: A Roxburgh, 73), M Leslie.
GLASGOW CALEDONIANS: T Hayes; S Longstaff, I Jardine (rep: C Simmers, 68), J Leslie, D Stark; L Smith, F Stott; G McIlwham, G Bulloch (rep: K McKenzie, 22-26), W Anderson (rep: A Kittle, 64), S Campbell, S Grimes, M Waite, J Shaw (rep: G Simpson, 49), G Flockhart (rep: J Petrie, 64).
Referee: C Thomas (Wales).

Miller leads the pack as Lansdowne tumble

Terenure College 14
Lansdowne..........................7

BY KARL JOHNSTON

LANSDOWNE'S unbeaten run in the AIB League first division came to an abrupt end at Lakelands Park on Saturday as Terenure College recorded their first victory in the campaign this season. The win was much more decisive than the scoreline suggests, although the Lansdowne faithful will point to the injury-time rally that might have yielded a draw for their side.

The wonder was how Lansdowne had avoided defeat in their three previous league outings, so indifferently did they perform. Their problems began up front, with a pack that won hardly any possession in the first half; the second period was marginally better, but an out-of-form threequarter line made little impression on an alert Terenure defence.

Reggie Corrigan and Gabriel Fulcher, Lansdowne's two international forwards, were largely anonymous figures. By contrast, Eric Miller at No 8, had a magnificent game for Terenure and the rest of the pack responded to his example, especially John Campbell, at tight-head prop, the architect of the second-half try that effectively won the match.

Terenure's threequarters were much more constructive than their opponents, and Niall Hogan at scrum half gave an impressive display, as did his brother, Brian, who came on as a replacement on the left wing, early in the second half, and marked the occasion by scoring the vital try.

Terenure played with a near gale at their backs in the first half and completely dominated the opening 30 minutes. But, despite all their territorial superiority, they had only a penalty goal to show for their efforts and it was Lansdowne who ended the siege with a constructive attack, initiated by Gordon D'Arcy on the left wing.

Terenure responded and Billy Treacy's penalty left them six points to the good at half-time. Another Treacy penalty stretched the lead in the 49th minute, but shortly afterwards Brian Glennon, the Lansdowne replacement centre, intercepted a pass and raced 30 metres to score and Terenure's lead was reduced to two points. Still, their resolve did not wilt and Brian Hogan's unconverted try in the seventieth minute was a just reward for their determination and tenacity.

Lansdowne exerted tremendous pressure in the closing minutes, but the Terenure defence held firm to record a deserved victory.

"That win has kick-started our season," Miller said. That remains to be seen, but in the meantime, Lansdowne's defeat sees Ballymena go top of the first divisio after they beat Clontarf 40-17 at Castle Avenue.

SCORERS: Terenure: Try: B Hogan (70min). **Penalty goals:** Fitzpatrick, Treacy 2. **Lansdowne: Try:** Glennon (65). **Conversion:** Kearns.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Terenure first): 3-0, 6-0 (half-time), 9-0, 9-7, 14-7.
TERENURE COLLEGE: C Clarke, D Coleman, B Treacy, M Smyth, G Dempsey (rep: B Hogan, 48min), C Fitzpatrick (rep: D Lynagh, 42), N Hogan, S Barello, J Blaney, J Campbell, R Sheriff (rep: P Holden, 72), D Quinn (rep: C Potts, half-time), D Blaney, B Kavanagh, E Miller.
LANSDOWNE: R Kearns, M Dillon, S Horgan (rep: B Glennon, 59), K McQuilton, G D'Arcy; B Everitt, D O'Mahony; R Corrigan, P Grimes (rep: C Egan, 55), A McKeen, S O'Connor, G Fulcher, S McEntee, L Toland, C McEntee.
Referee: G Black (Leinster).

Sloman steadies Barnstaple path

Barnstaple 15
Gloucester Old Boys........14

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

EVEN the most ardent of Barnstaple supporters found it hard to accept that this was the outstanding tie in the fifth round of the NPI Cup, but that evaluation was borne out at Pottington Road on Saturday and their side now stand only three games from a place at Twickenham on April 17.

Safety in defence was always likely to prevail over attacking flair and for that reason alone, Graham Sloman, the Barnstaple full back, must have been stood many a drink in North Devon on Saturday night. His kicking deficiencies were outweighed by his security under a barrage of high balls.

The Old Boys' pack was the first to settle and it was from forward pressure that Mike Foyle squeezed his way over to help to cancel out an early dropped goal by Jeremy Chugg and a penalty goal from Andrew Swales.

Gradually though Barnstaple pulled their game together, and even when Kevin Hemming scored a second try for the Old Boys four minutes into the second half, their heads were quick to rise.

So it seemed about right when Swales's fourth successful penalty attempt crawled over in the bottom right-hand corner of the upright with seven minutes remaining to put his side in front for the second and final time.

SCORERS: Barnstaple: Penalty goals: A Swales 4 (15 min, 35, 52, 73). **Dropped goal:** J Chugg (3). **Gloucester Old Boys: Tries:** M Foyle (18), K Hemming (44). **Conversions:** A Vickery 2.

Ryan aims to lift Bristol

BY DAVID HANDS AND ALASDAIR REID

BRISTOL, enjoying themselves at the top of the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, hope to confirm today the arrival of Dean Ryan to strengthen their challenge for promotion. Ryan, the experienced No 8 who captained Newcastle to the Premiership title last May, has been in negotiations with Bristol over a role that would allow him to coach as well as play.

In the former role he will replace another former England No 8, David Egerton, who resigned last week to give more time to his family and his business interests. Whether Ryan plays again, however, will depend on medical reports after an operation to fuse discs in his neck; at 32 he has a fund of experience to offer on the field, as well as off it.

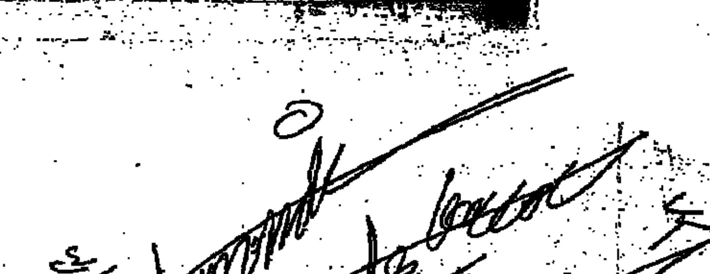
It is less than a year ago since Ryan won the last of his four international caps, against Scotland at Murrayfield in March. But with every Premiership club involved in belt-tightening exercises, Bristol offer him an opportunity to shape a new career in coaching which can start immediately, since his injury will keep him out of action for the rest of this season.

He will team up with Darryl Jones, who worked so hard to keep Bristol afloat last season, and Bob Dwyer, who joined the club as director of rugby in August and last week confirmed a 28-strong squad designed to return to the first division at the earliest opportunity. It will be a familiar scenario for Ryan, who with Rob Andrew and Steve Bates joined Newcastle when they, too, were in the second division.

Scott Hastings, Scotland's most capped player, announced his retirement from representative rugby last night after playing for the Edinburgh Reivers in their 33-3 win over Glasgow Caledonians. Hastings, who earned the last of his 65 caps against England in 1997, has terminated his contract with the Scottish Rugby Union 10 months before it was due to expire.

Hastings, 34, said that he had become frustrated with playing so few games this season, having been out of the international squad and appearing only a handful of times for the Reivers. He will now work for his brother Gavin's public relations company and is also expected to take up a role with his club, Watsonians.

Hastings first appeared for Scotland in their 18-17 win over France at Murrayfield in 1986. He subsequently played in three World Cups and also won two British Isles cap against Australia in 1989.



Allied Dunbar Premiership: Robinson shattered by defeat at Gloucester

Gallagher keeping feet firmly on the ground

London Scottish 24
Harlequins 35

By Steve Fleming

AFFORDED the luxury of playing an away match at home, Harlequins made the most of the opportunity. London Scottish, who share the Stoop with Harlequins, failed to build on the win last week at Saracens and, in truth, gave their landlords an easy ride.

Harlequins have now won eight of their past nine Allied Dunbar Premiership first division matches but this was only their second away success of the season. Despite the championship form, John Gallagher, the Harlequins director of rugby, refused to get carried away with talk of titles.

He said: "We've got Northampton and Leicester at the Stoop in the next few weeks and we'll be in a better position to review our chances of winning the Premiership after those games. Our form hasn't been what it was before the international break and it's nice to be getting back to a good standard again."

Gallagher's side certainly are on the up, but Scottish never looked as though they would finish the game in front. Damian Cummins, the hooker, started a game for Scottish for the first time since September and gave Harlequins the ball at the lineout with wayward throwing three times in the first 20 minutes. Barry Irvine, the 18-year-old fly half who was the hero of the win at Saracens, showed his inexperience on a number of occasions with naive decision-making and received some bone-jarring tackles from Thierry Lacroix, before he limped off with a knee injury in the 57th minute.

Three penalties from Ian McAusland, the Scottish full back, to six from John Schuster, the Harlequins centre, was all the game had to offer before five tries were scored in the final quarter.


Harries: try of the match

Kenny Milligan, the wing, and Rob Hunter, the No 8, crossed for Scottish while Huw Harries, Zinzan Brooke and Gary Halpin replied for Harlequins. The pick of the bunch came from Harries, the scrum half, who ran in on the blind side after Chris Sheasby, the No 8, found him with a clever reverse pass.

Scottish face Gloucester at home tomorrow and will need to show greater application and imagination than this to prevent the West Country men gaining their second away win of the season as well.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Try: Milligan (67min), Hunter (79). Conversion: Forrest. Penalty goals: McAusland 3 (3, 9, 36), Forrest (71). Harlequins: Tries: Harries (62), Brooke (74), Halpin (80). Conversion: Schuster. Penalty goals: Schuster 6 (12, 18, 24, 29, 48, 51).

SCORING SEQUENCE (London Scottish first): 3-0, 6-0, 6-3, 6-6, 6-9, 6-12, 9-12 (half-time), 9-15, 9-18, 9-23, 14-23, 17-23, 17-30, 24-30, 24-35.

LONDON SCOTTISH: I McAusland (rep: S Forrest, 46min); K Milligan, J Bonney, R Eriksson, C Sharman, B Irvine (rep: R Davies, 57), G Easterby (rep: S Cook, 69), P Johnstone, D Cummins (rep: D Rudham, 41), P Burnell, B Jones, M Watson, S Fenn, S Holmes, R Hunter.

HARLEQUINS: J Williams; D O'Leary, D Officer (rep: J Keyter, 74), J Schuster, D Luger, T Lacroix (rep: Keyter, 45-48), H Harries (rep: N Walshe, 69); J Leonard (rep: D Barnes, 37-40, 42-50), T Murphy (rep: C Ridgway, 73), G Halpin, G Llewellyn (rep: W Davison, 68), G Morgan, Z Brooke (rep: R Jenkins, 74), A Leach, C Sheasby.

Referee: S Savage (Warwickshire)


Tombs, of Gloucester, whose decisive break set up the first of two tries for Catling, drives through the defence of Bath during his team's victory at Kingsholm on Saturday

Bath struggling to keep heads above water

Gloucester 23
Bath 7

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ON THE face of it, Bath have everything — financial stability, enthusiastic support and international experience by the barrow-load, with 12 capped players starting the game at Kingsholm on Saturday. It counts for nothing if the confidence has gone, and Bath's has plummeted since November to the extent that they cannot perform even the fundamentals without error.

Richard Hill, one of their former favourites but now director of rugby at Gloucester, talked of the psychology of the team after watching his players inflict a sixth successive Allied Dunbar Premiership defeat on their fading West Country rivals. Everyone always wanted to beat Bath, perennial cup-holders and league champions, but few were good enough to do so; that desire remains but Bath, like an ageing stag, are no longer good enough to fend them off and find themselves clawed down.

The mystique of success is nothing more than a memory, revived only for a few flickering minutes in the second half when Adédayo Adebayo retrieved a try and the Bath backs found an element of continuity. But there is no general to marshal them, no one to offer variety and their core players, those upon whom Andy Robinson relies most — Phil de Glanville, Dan Lyle, Jeremy Guscott — are either out of action, out of form or, as in the case of Guscott, one of the most heavily marked men in rugby.

"I feel for Andy," Hill said of the Bath coach. "He was brave enough to take on the poisoned chalice and that is what it was, because when the game went professional there was only one way Bath could go and that was down. At some stage they will have to rebuild and Andy ought to be given the chance to do it. He will learn different coaching and man-management skills in this situation and if he were asked to move on, another club would benefit."

Robinson acknowledges that he has never been at a lower ebb during his 13 years with Bath as player and coach. He believes he has the support of the management board and the club owner, Andrew Brownsword, and that his squad has the ability to break the downward spiral, but this week could leave his season completely aimless. He must travel to Sale tomorrow, in the Premiership, without Nigel Redman, who was concussed and will be missingfor three weeks, then take on Newcastle, away, on Saturday, in the Tetley's Bitter Cup — the only competition in which they have a realistic interest.

Privately he will rail at decisions that went against his team on Saturday, but he knows all too well how frequently 50-50 decisions favour the winning team — Bath had enough of them in his playing days. Gloucester achieved their highest league win over Bath because Hill has been able to convince a less talented squad that they must achieve new levels if they are to be anything more than a mid-table team. He has made unpopular decisions — selling Phil Greening to Sale, dropping Dave Sims, the club captain, and Scott Benton, the scrum half — but now his squad and the supporters can see why the decisions were made.

Benton returned on Saturday with a huge appetite for the fray, Mark Cornwell is playing the best rugby of his career at lock and in Neil McCarthy and Chris Fortey, Hill has two players who typify the old Gloucester, technically adroit and full of heart. McCarthy was part of a pack that were everything Bath were not: tight in the scrums, controlled in the lineout and playing as good a pick-and-drive game in the mud and the sleet as any coach could wish.

After the sorry defeat at Sale in mid-December, Hill sat down players and management to rethink the direction of the club. "We have reached a stage where, to go further, we need extra effort, harder attitudes, the know-how to nail down wins," Hill said. He is receiving it. The entire team threw up a brick wall in defence that Bath could crack only once.

In contrast, Gloucester scored three tries and might have scored two more. Chris Catling, the full back, scored two of them and created the third for Terry Fanolua in a purple patch either side of half-time. With 40 minutes played, Bath trailed only 8-0 having faced a wind so strong that they declined even to try to kick at goal, but in time added on they let slip ten more points and, with the second half only two minutes old, relinquished a further five.

Catling's first came after a splendid break by Richard Tombs and a chip ahead by Mark Mapletoft that Iain Balshaw covered but could not ground. The second came when Steve Ojomoh, who enjoyed the most fulfilling of games against his former club, ran a decoy and Tombs put Fanolua clear. Catling running in. For good measure the full back punished a missed clearance by Guscott by dummying past Balshaw and Richard Webster and dispatching Fanolua to the line.

When in doubt, Gloucester invariably kept the ball in hand; when in doubt, Bath invariably kicked it. They missed tackles, they turned over possession. They are a team that has lost a sense of collective responsibility and has lost the art of winning, an art in which they used to be specialists. Nor, now that they are down, will they find it easy to pick themselves up again.

DETAILS FROM KINGSHOLM

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Catling 2 (30min, 40), Fanolua (42). Conversion: Mapletoft. Penalty goals: Mapletoft 2 (19, 41). Bath: Try: Adebayo (49). Conversion: Callard.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Gloucester first): 3-0, 8-0, 11-0, 18-0 (half-time), 23-0, 23-7

GLOUCESTER: C Catling, B Johnson, T Fanolua, R Tombs, R Greenslade-Jones, M Mapletoft, S Benton; T Woodman, N McCarthy, A Deacon (rep: A Powles, 78min), R Fidler (rep: R Ward, 71), M Cornwell, E Pearce, N Carter, S Ojomoh.

BATH: J Callard (rep: M Perry 74); I Balshaw, K Maggs, J Guscott, A Adebayo, M Catt, N Hatley (rep: G Cooper, 65); D Hilton (rep: K Yates, 65), M Regan (rep: A Long, 74), V Ubogu, S Borthwick (rep: B Sturnham, 7-9), N Redman (rep: Sturnham, 24), R Webster (rep: R Earnshaw, 74), E Peters, D Lyle.

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Cardiff joy tainted by lack of genuine opposition

Cardiff 29
Leicester 13

By Gerald Davies

CARDIFF will only take a modicum of satisfaction from this result against the leading club in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Having lost their previous five fixtures, Cardiff would have been hoping for a performance hinting at a more confident second half of the season, but it did not arrive.

The gloss of victory was further reduced by the team that Leicester fielded. There were too many notable absentees for Cardiff to feel justifiably proud of their achievement in beating the premier club in England for the second time this season.

That a crowd approaching 10,000 turned up on an atrocious day indicates once again how more potently attractive these games are compared with the other rugby fare available in Wales. Next Saturday Cardiff will be at home to Swansea, who have won their past six games. In preparation for what will no doubt be a capacity crowd, extra seating has already been installed.

On the evidence of the match on Saturday, Cardiff will have to increase the speed of their game and find ways and means to be less predictable. Too often they were drawn back towards their pack of forwards when, even with the elements providing as difficult a surface as was possible, they would have profited more by running out into the wider spaces.

Moore, Kacala and Williams had an immensely profitable afternoon, but this is no reason why Wintle and Hall should go so consistently in search of their support.

Cardiff's lack of rhythm and sureness of purpose means that Howley is rarely able to set himself free. There are too many defenders at close quarters. Yet in these circumstances he still managed to plough his way over for two tries in the first half. In between, Kacala made a decisive clean break in the middle of the field that ended with Sullivan cantering easily over on the right wing.


Howley: two tries

During an indeterminate period of play, two of the Leicester front-row forwards changed the pace of the game. West came tearing away from a maul to find Freshwater on his shoulder. The prop forward sprinted away to record what was to be his side's only try of the afternoon.

The only highlight of the second half was the try by Craig Morgan. Clever running, subtle foot work and a deft grubber kick around Stimpson saw the full back rewarded.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Howley 2 (6min, 33), Sullivan (15), Morgan (55). Conversions: Jarvis 3. Penalty goal: Jarvis (64). Leicester: Try: Freshwater (26min). Conversion: Stimpson. Penalty goal: Stimpson (9). Dropped goal: Goode (45).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Cardiff first): 7-0, 7-3, 14-3, 14-10, 21-10 (half-time), 21-13, 26-13, 29-13.

CARDIFF: C Morgan, S Hill, M Hall, M Wintle, A Sullivan, L Jarvis, R Howley, S John (rep: A Lewis, 65min), P Young, L Mustoe (rep: D Young, 49), S Moore, D Jones (rep: K Stewart, 65), O Williams, D Baugh (rep: P Williams, 19), G Kacala.

LEICESTER: T Stimpson, M Horak, C Joiner, J Stuart, D Lougheed, A Goode, J Hamilton, G Rowntree, D West, P Freshwater (rep: D Jelley, 65), R Hurrell, N Fletcher (rep: B Smith, 76), O Wingham (rep: A Balding, 66), L Moody, W Johnson.

Referee: D Price (Caerphilly)

Northampton benefit from forward planning

Sale 24
Northampton 39

By Christopher Irvine

PACKS win prizes. It is no coincidence that the two teams with the outstanding sets of forwards in the Allied Dunbar Premiership now jointly lead the first division. Northampton's irresistible eight ran Sale to ground and ended a ten-year hoodoo at Heywood Road on Saturday. Tomorrow, Northampton can overtake Leicester for the first time, provided they quell a resurgent London Irish at Franklins Gardens.

Until this eye-opener, Sale reckoned that with an international-class prop they could turn round their disappointing season. Talent abounds in the back line and four tries again indicated what fine opportunists they are, but the Cheshire team were eight good forwards short of stopping a monumental Northampton pack, whose three signings this season have been instrumental in their transformation.

Federico Méndez and Richard Metcalfe, both unhappy at Bath and Newcastle, their respective previous clubs, were magnificent in their tight, focused driving. A hapless Sale were skittled like ninepins so many times it was embarrassing. In a 14-minute tour de force, Pat Lam's timing and finishing were precise for a hat-trick of tries, which conclusively proved his standing as the leading forward in the English game, while a dead leg hardly deterred Matt Dawson, the England scrum half, from directing operations.

Five years before, Ian McGeechan had just been made made an offer by Northampton and watched them beaten 41-6 at Sale. Their director of rugby was purring on Saturday night. "I wondered then if I'd made the right decision," he said. "Now, the better we become, the less I need to be saying. You know you're getting it right when you could resign at the end of the season and it wouldn't make a difference to the club."

McGeechan, of course, is not about to pack his bags. Northampton are nearing his ideals, a team whose sum of their talented parts is an impressive collective. They are good enough to be pragmatic one moment, open and fluid the next, but rarely loose or slack. Kickable penalties against Sale were shunned as statements of attacking intent "because with a positive attitude you get more wins than losses," McGeechan explained. The switch of Tim Rodber from the back row to lock was not so much a gamble as a masterstroke. Ten victories in their past 11 league games are proof that the "underachievers" label is close to being ripped up. To win at a club with traditionally one of the best home league records and on a dry ground, which normally suits Sale, was, McGeechan felt, another psychological barrier that had been broken.



Dawson: directed play

Perhaps his one regret about a marvellous match was not signing Steve Hanley, who was injured during trials at Northampton and is the prototype of the powerful and quick wing that England must be looking at. The cocksure teenager has scored six times in four league appearances for Sale, including a brace on Saturday that fairly took the breath away. Given a choice between revenge over Northampton in the Tetley's Bitter Cup on Saturday and adding to Bath's plight in the league tomorrow, Sale would rather improve their own precarious Premiership position. Adrift in the bottom four is no place for an ambitious club.

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Hanley 2 (22min, 50), Machacek (70), Moore (76). Conversions: Howarth 2. Northampton: Tries: Lam 3 (48, 53, 62), Allen (2), Malone (81). Conversions: Grayson 4. Penalty goals: Grayson 2 (40, 75).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-7, 7-7, 7-10 (half-time), 7-17, 12-17, 12-22, 12-29, 19-29, 19-32, 24-32, 24-39.

SALE: J Mallinder; M Moore, B-J Mather, C Yates, S Hanley, S Howarth, R Smith, P Winstanley (rep: D Williamson, 74min), P Greening (rep: S Diamond, 68), D Bell, D Baldwin (rep: A Sanderson, 40), C Murphy, S Raiwalui, P Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain (sin-bin, 46-56, rep: J Machacek, 67).

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; C Moir (sin-bin 55-65), A Blyth, M Allen, J Sleightholme; P Grayson, M Dawson; G Pagel, F Mendez, M Stewart (rep: M Hynes, 71), R Metcalfe, T Rodber (rep: J Phillips, 67), G Seely, A Pountney, P Lam.

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Wayward Archer undermines Newcastle's title challenge

London Irish 16
Newcastle 14

By Alan Pearey

NEWCASTLE are not giving up their Allied Dunbar Premiership title yet but, if their form on Saturday is anything to go by, their optimism is ill-founded. A two-point defeat by London Irish flattered the visitors, whose indiscipline frequently undermined the side in all parts of the pitch.

Newcastle blamed Steve Lander, the referee, when they conceded more than 20 penalties at Leicester recently. However, there were no such excuses after Robin Goodliffe whistled the life out of them at Sunbury.


Bachop: pass master

The chief sinner was Garath Archer, the lock, who risks losing his club place if he fails to regain some semblance of the form that made him an ever-present for England last season. Displaced by Tim Rodber in the past two internationals, Archer conceded a series of reckless penalties, including the three that allowed Jarrod Cunningham to kick Irish to their fifth win in six league games.

Steve Bates, the Newcastle assistant coach, admitted that such copious indiscretions are hurting the club. "Our indiscipline is beginning to cost us quite significantly," he said. "Garath is a big fella and officials look for him a lot. He has to be whiter than white, but his enthusiasm for the game sometimes lets him down."

With Rob Andrew, wearing the No 12, but playing predominantly at No 10, kicking astutely to the corners, Newcastle still looked capable of holding on to the 7-6 lead gained by Va'aiga Tuigamala's storming try straight after the break. But after Cunningham restored the lead for Irish, the home side's greater adventure, well served by the impressive

Results and tables 38

midfield trio of Stephen Bachop, Brendon Venter and Robert Todd, was finally rewarded with an outstanding try.

Bachop's passing ability, likened by Dick Best, the Irish coach, to that of the great Mark Ella, created space for Justin Bishop, the Ireland wing, and, despite the heavy ground, he showed blistering pace as he jinked inside and scorched clear of the covering defence. Cunningham's conversion, giving him 72 points in his seven league games for the exiles, rendered Gary Armstrong's late try for Newcastle an irrelevance.

Despite the Irish march up the ladder, Best insisted that mid-table entrenchment is his target, given the number of new faces trying to find their feet. "We've got 20 new players and are still not sure of our best combination." Best, who reserved special praise for the tireless ball-carrying efforts of Jake Boer, the Cape-born flanker, said. "But if we win at Northampton [tomorrow], I'll say we've arrived."

Dean Ryan, the Newcastle No 8, was absent and is expected to be named today as player-coach at Bristol. Rumours that Newcastle may be sold, however, were rejected by the club's management. More pertinently, Doddie Weir, the Newcastle lock, recently signed a new four-year deal and negotiations on other contracts that are due to expire in May are under way.

SCORERS: London Irish: Try: Bishop (63min). Conversion: Cunningham. Penalty goals: Cunningham 3 (25, 37, 63). Newcastle: Tries: Tuigamala (43), Armstrong (77). Conversions: Wilkinson 2.

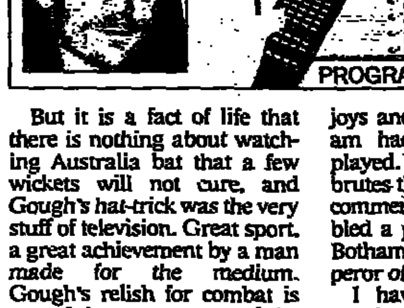
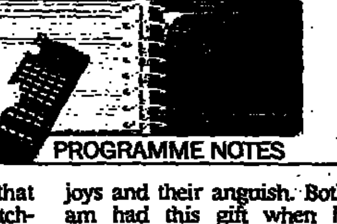
SCORING SEQUENCE (London Irish first): 3-0, 6-0 (half-time), 6-7, 9-7, 16-7, 16-14.

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, J Bishop, R Todd, B Venter, J Cunningham (rep: N Woods, 76min), S Bachop, K Putt, N Hatley, M Howe (rep: R Kellam, 48), K Fullman, K Spicer, M O'Kelly, J Boer, K Dawson, R Gallacher (rep: I Feaunati, 56).

NEWCASTLE: S Legg, J Naylor, M Shaw, R Andrew, V Tuigamala; J Wilkinson, G Armstrong; G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter, G Weir, G Archer, P Walton, R Arnold, R Beattie.

Referee: R Goodliffe (Yorkshire)

Dreary presentation is a monkey on Sky's back

There is a sequence right at the end of *The Great Railway Bazaar* in which Paul Theroux, that eternally testy traveller, at last completing his interminable train journey around Asia, is overcome by violent, soul-weary misanthropy as he heads homewards on the Trans-Siberian express.

Nothing serious. Just a deep and powerful loathing for all trains, all people who work on trains, all people who travel on trains and all humanity besides. "Monkey!" he shouts at the ticketman. "Monkey!" at the buffet attendant. "Monkey!" at some hapless fellow traveller.

I must say, I know how he feels, as the Trans-Australian express of Test match cricket limps into Sydney. England's performance has suffered from leaves on the line and the wrong sort of snow, but just when you think things could get no worse, we get Ian Botham telling us about it.

"Monkey!" I shout at the screen. "Monkey!" at the English cricketers. "Monkey!" at the commentators. "Monkey!" at the Barmy Army — I'm all for tolerant acceptance of other people's pleasures, but really, what is the point of standing in the sun for six hours consuming 20 bottles of beer and saying Barmy Army 200,000 times? Monkey!

And the adverts — the adverts. There is a gentlemanly convention among people who write about television that the advertisements are exempted from discussion; not really part of the experience. But we cannot avoid them. We even miss the odd ball to see them.

"Monkey!" at the shaving advert. "Monkey!" at the latest Sky promo — has any television network ever spent so many hours selling itself? "Monkey!" at the beer advert. "Monkey!" and "monkey!" again at the car adverts.

It wasn't so bad on Saturday. True, I felt a bit monkeyish as the Waugh twins were doing their stuff, and doubly monkeyish at the thought of how many sub-editors would be sending down headlines about Spoils of Waugh and Theatre of Waugh and so on.

But it is a fact of life that there is nothing about watching Australia bat that a few wickets will not cure, and Gough's hat-trick was the very stuff of television. Great sport, a great achievement by a man made for the medium. Gough's relish for combat is one of the great assets of the England team. Television needs athletes who cannot help but communicate their joys and their anguish. Botham had this gift when he played. What a pity he is as the brutes that perish, now he is a commentator. Sky have assembled a pretty drab team, and Botham is the Sky-borne emperor of banality. Monkey!

I have lost count of the number of replays I have seen of Gough waving a stump and shouting his hymn of victory to the departing Australians in the last incongruous and victorious Test match in Melbourne. What was he saying? Answers on a postcard, please. I think I can make out two of the words, and the general tone of the oration seems to have been that Australia should go away.

Alas, they have not done so. Sunday morning's dawn stint was one to make the most stoical person 'monkey'. And the commentators were droning on and on about the competition format for the World Cup. I suppose the chaps were flagging a bit too, but their job is to try not to show it.

Then on and on about who will captain Australia in the one-day series coming up and whether or not it would be Shane Warne. Really, chaps, we have live action — can't we concentrate on that? Sometimes, watching sport on television is like watching a play with two people in the seats behind you talking about the price of soapflakes.

And all this while the England cricket team were not quite collapsing in their usual melodramatic way, just subsiding like a soufflé, the high hopes of Melbourne slowly whiffling down into a plate of soggy scrambled egg.

There are two kinds of cricket captain, and two kinds of commentators. The best ones are a step ahead of the action, anticipating, questioning, trying things. The second raters are the ones who follow the ball, reacting, going through the motions, making a stock response to a stock situation.

Alec Stewart, excellent chap that he is, is of the latter kind. So, alas, are most of the Sky commentary team. Mark Nicholas, shortly to be heading the new Channel 4 broadcasts of the home Test matches, has less of that than his colleagues, but it still doesn't place him in the Benaud class.

Ah well. The Test series has had its moments, and it has been wonderful to have both the live action and the extended highlights. That is enough, really. I'm left feeling just a tiny bit like Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca* as the Test series comes to an end. At least we'll always have Melbourne.

'What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham?'

Nutty charm of dwelling in the dingly Dell



I suppose if you visit The Dell regularly, the pleasure wears off. But I was so pleased to see that the advertising board at Southampton FC (remembered from two years ago) still reacts to each corner awarded with the legend "Don't Get Stuck in a Corner . . . Phone Posh Windows" that I got quite sentimental. What a sweet, dingly little place Southampton is. Yet until recently, quite honestly, who had heard of it?

"This is what the FA Cup is all about," I cheered myself. "Obscure little clubs like Southampton making a name for themselves, widening the horizons of their fans." Before the match, I bought some nuts from a woman in a shopping precinct. "In London, these would be double the price," I informed her, by way of chummy, price-of-nuts conversation. But she snapped back: "I've never been to London," as if I ought to know it. A salutary moment, as I think you will agree. What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham arriving this afternoon? Well, none whatsoever, obviously.

The inequity between the two teams was startling, from every angle. The Dell is smaller than Craven Cottage. Fulham have won 15 league games this season, Southampton, three. Recently, Southampton recruited Hassan Kachloul, a cheap Moroccan midfield player, from Metz, and because of the low terrain surrounding him, he has quickly become the Matterhorn of the outfit. Evidently, if you add up the cost of the Fulham side, it runs into the usual millions, whereas if you add up the cost of Southampton, it's the same as a bag of nuts. The home crowd is noisy and passionate, however, which is all the more of an achievement when you remember that every time something interesting happens on their pitch, they are enjoined to forget about football altogether and think about up-market double-glazing.

So the fairytale version of this third-round match on Saturday would have found David Jones's team nicking a draw in the last minute and, good heavens, that's exactly what happened. The Cup at its best, eh? Fulham went ahead after nine minutes with a classy goal from Steve Hayward, well set up by Geoff Horsfield. The London side dominated the first half with energy and invention, and moreover looked dashing in yellow. Southampton faffed about, ineffectually, in red and white. "You don't know what you're doing," chanted the Dell crowd. Evidently the supporters had a crazy notion (contrary to recent Worthington Cup evidence) that Southampton should be beating Fulham, instead of the other way round.

Now, at half-time, with Fulham one up, it was time to consider what each team really wanted from this match. Fulham are at present very busy winning the second division; rationally, they might not want to dissipate their energies in the FA Cup. On the other hand, their "chief operating officer" is Kevin Keegan, who not only adores limelight, but has been deprived of it for some time, despite his record at Craven Cottage. "Nice to be back," he told the BBC's Barry Davies on Saturday — a giveaway remark, I thought, when he hadn't been away anywhere. Southampton, likewise, might prefer not to proceed in the Cup, since arguably they need all their strength to keep running on the spot at the bottom of the Premiership.

So the second half kicked off as a more complicated affair, as if everyone had been thinking too hard at half-time, and their brains hurt. Suddenly, Fulham were all defence and Southampton (albeit rather weedily) was all attack, although personally, I thought Fulham were still calling the shots. "That's unusual," an equally suspicious Fulham fan beside me, said. "A Keegan side with six at the back?" Was this a case of shutting up shop? Or was it (tee-hee) a gilt-edged invitation to Southampton to explore the other end of the pitch, and try a few shots?

Well, it's only a paranoid suggestion. I have doubtless been mentally unbalanced by too many episodes of *The X Files*. All I do know is that Southampton did not improve, yet saw more of the action: and that as Southampton repeatedly failed to equalise in the second half, Keegan systematically substituted his best players, and in the 89th minute actually put on Paul Trollope — "the worst player we've got!" being the heartfelt groan of the Fulham fan beside me — which is the football manager's equivalent of putting a gun in your own ear. And it worked.

Almost immediately, you see, in the second minute of extra time, the hapless Trollope goofed in the penalty box, kicking the ball against Alan Nielsen, his teammate, who was standing two feet behind him, so that it rebounded and fell neatly to Egil Ostenstad. True, Ostenstad was lying on the ground at the time, but it was still a gift. "For me?" Egil said, gazing up in disbelief, as time stood still. "Wow, thanks." And with a rather cunning horizontal shot, he equalised and was warmly thanked by Keegan rather than his own boss as he loped off to the dressing-room a confused hero.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Hayward scores for Fulham but Southampton, the underdogs, fought back bravely to earn a replay in the bright lights of the capital

So was this all a clever set-up? Well, Jones looked a bit depressed afterwards, so no clues there. When asked whether Ostenstad's goal was lucky, the Southampton manager said: "No goal is lucky" — which can be taken in a variety of ways. Meanwhile Kevin ("nice to be back") Keegan looked suspiciously full of beans for a man who'd just seen his team throw away victory at the last minute. He mentioned as often as possible that in the replay at Craven Cottage on January 12, he hoped for a capacity crowd of 19,000. "If 19,000 don't show up for such a match," he said, "we'll know we're wasting our time."

So Southampton's fairytale hopes are not over yet. The big flashy London team has given the little parochial side another chance. Southampton are known locally as the Saints, you know. Surely the whole country should get behind them before January 12, a bit like Rushden and Diamonds? Come on you Saints. Make the journey to the Big Bad Smoke on Tuesday week, don't be scared. Just take your own nuts, that's all.

SPORTS LETTERS

No place for bad language

From Mr A. Challoner

Sir, Foul and abusive language has no place on the cricket field and it should be punished expeditiously by the offending player being sent off. Due to the length of play in cricket, this would need to be done in a different way to that in football. I suggest:

Immediately after the offence, the player is sent off the field of play and must not enter it again until six hours of further play has taken place. At that point he may return. If he commits a similar offence in the same match, he should be sent off for the remainder of that match. In addition he should not be allowed to play in the next game in that competition.

There is another ploy entering the game that also needs to be stamped out. This happens when a batsmen starts his run and a fielding player (often with his back to the batsman) deliberately positions himself so that the batsman has to take a course out of the straight line, in order to avoid a collision. A possible punishment for this would be:

If the fielder is a bowler, he should not be allowed to bowl another ball for the next 30 minutes of play. If he is another fielder then he should not be allowed to enter the cricket square for the next 30 minutes of play.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Boddelwyddan,
Denbighshire LL18 5UR.

From Mr Geoffrey Bubb

Sir, Alan Lee spoilt his report (December 30) by describing Dean Headley as "this engaging Brummie".

Headley never was, and never will be, a "Brummie". He was born in Stourbridge in the Black Country and enjoyed his cricket as a youth at the historic Oldswinford Hospital School in the same town.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BUBB,
38 Berkeley Drive,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands DY6 9DT.

Early footballing achievements devalued

From Mr Kevin McIntosh

Sir, There is always something special in your Boxing Day issue and, with The Best League Table in the World . . . Ever!, I wasn't disappointed.

But my beloved Sunderland were not even in the top ten. Why? Because the table awards progressively more points for more recent achievements. The magnificent early achievements of Everton and Aston Villa have been devalued. Eighty points have been awarded for a pre-First World War championship as opposed to 140 for a similar achievement in the Premiership.

You justify the criteria by stating that "the Premiership has brought the added pressure for teams chasing the championship of having to negotiate televised matches when their rivals have already played and might have the points in the bag. It is also the age of the high-profile foreign import."

I cannot accept this and neither should any decent football fan. In 1897 Aston Villa achieved a remarkable league and Cup double, gaining 140 points in your analysis. However, if they had done this last May they would have been awarded 255 points, a difference of 115! I agree that standards of fitness and coaching have improved, but surely the achievement is the same.

Please reconsider and put my beloved Sunderland back where they belong.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN McINTOSH,
4 Torcross Way, Parkside Grange,
Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 9PE.

Football salaries

From Mr Colin Riegels

Sir, Mr Nigel Phillips (letter, December 28) suggests that salary caps are a suitable way to control spiralling player's salaries in the FA Premier League and cites their success in the United States.

Sadly, it is unlikely any such limitation would be legally acceptable in this country. Although salary capping is conceptually illegal in the United States, leading sports are allowed to do it either because of exceptions to the anti-trust legislation (baseball) or because of collective bargaining agreements with players' unions (basketball, American football, ice hockey).

The real reasoning that drives this "financial lunacy" is a combination of laws which are designed purely to promote economic interests and football clubs who exist only to attain sporting success at any price. The parlous financial state of Real Madrid, the European champions, illustrates the truth of this.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN RIEGELS,
First Floor Flat,
40 Cotleigh Road,
London NW6 2NP.

Pallister's road to fame

From Mr Victor Watton

Sir, As Gary Pallister's college RE teacher, I would like to correct the mistaken information contained in your article (December 19).

Gary told the economics teacher, who managed the first XI, to "sod off" and so was expelled from the first XI after one match.

I was in charge of the college second XI and found Gary playing centre forward on the "left-overs" (at this time the college only had two teams). I put him in the second XI as a centre back and we won the Cleveland Schools Under-19 B division title.

The economics teacher refused to let Gary back on to his team and so Gary spent his college career as a second division player!

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR W. WATTON,
15 Bedale Grove,
Stockton-on-Tees
TS19 7QY.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number. e-mail, including postal address, should go to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

BOWLS

Ambitious Potter hoping to mould bright new future

David Rhys Jones reports on the impact made by a man with clear intentions

THE ancient sport of bowls, which has been going through an identity crisis for the past 20 years or so, has, it seems, finally arrived at its destination — an upmarket leisure resort at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk, where the world indoor bowls championships get under way today.

Potters Leisure Resort, whose owner, Brian Potter, built a state-of-the-art International Bowls Arena to house the championships, is putting £1.3 million into the sport over four years.

Potter openly declared his aim of making Potters the centre of the world of bowls and made no secret of the fact that he wanted to entice the World Bowls Tour (WBT) away from the Preston Guild Hall for the International Open, which he did last October.

Now he has claimed the world singles and pairs championships as well — and the new event is bigger and brighter than ever. The record prize purse of £163,000, and a £25,000 cheque for the winner of the singles, may not put bowls in the same class as snooker, but it is not to be sneezed at.

The field for the singles has been increased from 32 to 48, giving the chance to more outsiders to break into the game's closely guarded elite, and the championships will last for three weeks .

The journey of the sport's flagship event from the unpretentious Coatbridge bowls club in Scotland, where it was played between 1979 and 1987, to the Potters Leisure Resort, via Alexandra Palace and the Preston Guild Hall, is an interesting one.

It is as though the game, played by about a million people in Britain and in 40 countries through the world, has been searching for its spiritual home, not to mention its true identity. Is it a competitive sport — or a recreational pastime?

Part of the trouble with bowls is its image. It does not know whether it is a cosy recreation for people in cardigans, or a modern, sexy sport for athletes. In reality, of course, it is both.

A glance at the audience at Potters will confirm that most spectators are more than 50 years of age. They will look unnervingly like an audience for Mrs Merton's chat show. That is part of the reason why sponsors are hard to find.

However, it would be wrong to condemn the sport because old people watch it. The average age of the spectators at golf and snooker events is manifestly higher than that of the competitors, but they are not labelled games for old men.

Almost all the players on the portable rink at Potters will be under 40, and the winner is almost certain to be in his 20s or 30s. The last Phyllosan-user to win a televised bowls event was Terry Sullivan, who was 49 when he won the world title in 1985.

Bowls can give retired people something to do when they are too old for football, cricket or tennis, but these days no one who takes the game up in their later years stands a chance of competing at the highest level.

The BBC has been screening bowls for more than 20 years and is committed to the sport. It gets value for money because viewing figures are consistently good.

Bowlers themselves do not make good spectators. They would rather be out there, rolling woods down the rink for themselves. But armchair viewers will be tuning in in their millions when the cameras arrive for the final week of the singles championship.

With a new home in what is generally accepted to be the finest residential bowls centre in the world, bowls is committed to delivering the goods as a televised sport, albeit without scandals, controversial characters and media hype that is seemingly compulsory in other sports.

"Previous figures suggest that we will start our week on television (cameras will roll on Friday, January 15) with something around two million viewers on BBC2, and finish with upwards of three million," Gordon Dunwoodie, the World Bowls Tour's chief executive, said yesterday.

If his figures are correct, bowls is lagging only slightly behind snooker. The players will continue to amaze with their skills — and if Potters can stimulate a vibrant following for the sport, sponsors may begin to recognise its qualities.

SINGLES (seeded positions in brackets):

P Foster (Scot) (1) v D Corkill (Ire) or J Baker (Ire); G Smith (Eng) (16) v T Allcock (Eng) or D Holt (Eng); G Robertson (Scot) (9) v R Weale (Wal) or D Le Marquand (Jersey); W Richards (Eng) (8) v J Greenslade (Wal) or N Collett (Wal); J Price (Wal) (5) v P Ingroullle (Guernsey) or S Syme (Scot); M McMahon (Aus) (12) v W Wood (Scot) or S Anderson (Aus); G Harlow (Eng) (13) v I Bond (Eng) or J Wong (Hong Kong); M King (Eng) (4) v A Marshall (Scot) or B Mellors (Scot); A Thomson (Eng) (3) v N Burkett (S A) or J Ross (Ire); I Schuback (Aus) (14) v I Taylor (Aus) or M Anstey (Wal); R Corsie (Scot) (11) v N Kennedy (Hong Kong) or Steve Posa (N Z); D Gourlay (Scot) (6) v B Jackson (Eng) or J Mills (Eng); S Rees (Wal) (7) v N Booth (Ire) or N Watkins (Can); R Brassey (N Z) (10) v R Newman (Eng) or Robbie Thomson (N Z); L Gillett (Eng) (15) v S Glasson (Aus) or G Baker (S A); H Duff (Scot) (2) v J Henry (Ire) or J Rabkin (Israel)

PAIRS:

Corsie & G Robertson (Scot) (1) v P Black & N Gibson (Ire); R Brassey (N Z) & S Glasson (Aus) (8) v I Schuback & I Taylor (Aus); G Smith & A Thomson (Eng (5) v G Dennis & M Roberts (Wal); D Gourlay (Scot) & M McMahon (Aus) (4) v L Gillett & R Newman (Eng); H Duff & P Foster (Scot) (3) v J Greenslade & R Weale (Wal); G Harlow & W Richards (Eng) (6) v N Booth (Ire) & N Burkett (S A); T Allcock & M King (Eng) (7) v G & G Campbell (Scot); J Price & S Rees (Wal) (2) v A Springell & G Grace (Eng)

Lack of snow proves no handicap, as **Mel Webb** discovers



Driving force: Tommy Carter and his canine colleagues make their challenge at a decidedly snow-free Cannock. Photograph: Richard Cannon

Mushers dogged in pursuit of sledding

There are some disciplines in sport that require special qualities, pre-eminent among which is the participants' refusal to accept that the odds militate so heavily against them that it is a wonder they bother — Swiss round-the-world sailors and Jamaican bobsleighers spring immediately to mind, along with ice skaters from French tropical islands and Dutch mountaineers.

The common strand that links these people is that the medium that they need in which, or on which, to practise their craft is, for reasons of geography or climate, or both, in short supply. Switzerland has a singular lack of coastline, it does not often snow in the Caribbean, frozen water is in short supply in Oceania and Holland is decidedly flat. Yet still these brave souls plug on regardless. What troupers they are.

It is no coincidence that *three of the foregoing fall into* the realm of winter sports, in which a fairly consistent degree of severe meteorological inclemency is a standard prerequisite. This is the story of another such competitive endeavour. Meet Britain's dog-sledders.

Dog-sled racing is a big sport in the frozen north of North America, but that is only to be expected. Whatever Alaska lacks, it is not snow upon which to race. In the seven years that the British dog-sled racing championships have been running, it has snowed only once. But it has not put off these plucky men and women and their equally enthusiastic dogs.

Oh, they all have sleds, but they know that they will use them less frequently than once in a blue moon, and even if it does snow, they also know that, just as it was in such times for the old British Rail, it will be the wrong sort of snow.

"Snow in this country is awful, sloppy, wet stuff," J.M. Littman, one of Britain's leading drivers (known as "mushers"), said at the second leg of the British championships, held on a forest trail in Cannock, near Birmingham, over the weekend. Deep and crisp and even is what they want, and their search for it continues in vain.

The solution, as it is for mushers in South America and just about anywhere else in the many other parts of the world where the sport has taken a hold, is to abandon the runners of a sled and resort instead to wheels. The vehicles upon which they race are lightweight tricycles weighing no than 30lb, weird and wonderful tributes to engineering ingenuity, light alloy tubing and welding.

Frail, insubstantial vehicles they are, and when mushers and their teams, which can number anything from two to six dogs, are going at full pelt they nudge 30mph. And when that is all that separates mushers from a violent collision with something hard and unyielding — like a tree — it represents a distinct declaration of the faith that the human beings have in their dogs' hearing the commands for "left" or "right".

Between the dogs, the huge majority of which are Siberian huskies, and their owners there is a profound reliance based on mutual trust and affection. Both know that the other will never let them down, and it is at once thrilling and touching to watch it in action.

The dogs are magnificent creatures, 50lb of lean muscle and sinew wrapped up in dense, sleek coats of grey and black and white. Capable of pulling 20 times their own body weight — a six-dog team could haul a small saloon car at the same speed as they can pull a lightweight racing rig — they are bouncing, barking, leaping, bundles of hyperactivity whose instinct is to hunt. They no longer need to do that to survive, so their energy is manifested in a willingness to run and run. Littman, 30, has been British four-dog champion four times and is the man to beat again this year. A former track athlete, he has his roots in the music business and makes his living designing Internet sites, but to chat with him is to talk to a man who lives for his dogs, a charge to which he cheerfully admits.

"Getting involved in this goes further than sport," he said. "Owning and racing dogs is a whole lifestyle; we are all here primarily because of our love for the breed. They remain, basically, pure-bred working dogs, but at the same time they love to curl up in front of the fire or pinch the duvet if they get half a chance."

It was a picture of contented domesticity that was at odds with the intensity with which men, women and their dogs competed against each other on a bright, diamond-cold day in a forest in middle England. No matter that there were wheels on the vehicles instead of runners, immaterial that there was not the faintest hint of snow. This was sport in the raw, and it was rather splendid.

ICE HOCKEY

Rockman finds life rough at the top

By Norman de Mesquita

THE Bracknell Bees' goaltending problems contributed to their surprising 9-3 defeat by the struggling London Knights in the Superleague.

In the absence of Mark Bernard and Brian Greer, who are both injured, the Bees have been using Richard Gallace, on loan from Slough Jets. But Gallace was required by the Jets on Saturday and so the Bees used Greg Rockman, 16, of Cardiff Rage, the Devils' junior team, which plays in the English League. The youngster did his best but was playing at least three levels above what he normally experiences and the outcome was therefore hardly surprising.

The two points lifted London into seventh place, level with the Sheffield Steelers, who had asked for the game against Nottingham Panthers on Saturday to be postponed because of a flu bug. In the event, only Tony Hand and Teeder Wynne were missing, but several of those playing were at less than 100 per cent.

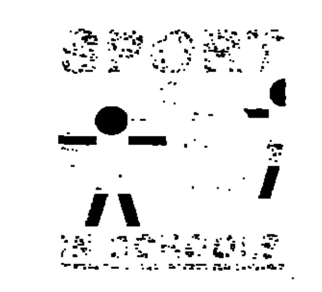
Ken Priestlay and Paul Adey exchanged first-period goals and the Steelers led 2-1 at the second interval, thanks to a goal by David Longstaff, who scored from close in. But the Steelers predictably ran out of steam in the third period and the Panthers took control with goals from Simon Hunt, Mike Bishop and Jason Weaver.

The National Hockey League (NHL) is believed to be considering opening its regular season with two games in England next October, with the likely venues the London Arena and the MEN Arena in Manchester. For the past two years, two teams have visited Japan to open the season, but the NHL has been unhappy with the public response. The two teams likely to make the trip to England are the Los Angeles Kings and the Ottawa Senators.

Adams makes most of indoor opportunities

By John Goodbody

For many years, even outstanding schoolboy cricketers never touched a bat or ball between July and the next April. Perhaps they might have had some odd matches during the holidays but, for the rest of the year, the game was a fond memory — and an enticing prospect.



Not any more. Many talented players now practise regularly during the winter months in the indoor nets, which are becoming increasingly commonplace in schools. James Adams, the 18-year-old left-hander at Sherborne School, is typical.

Last year he scored a cluster of centuries for the Hampshire representative teams and also 106 against Pakistan for the Midlands Under-19 side. Having already played for England Under-17s, he has the potential to have an outstanding career as an adult.

However, cricket now demands a more regular commitment than Lord Sheppard of Liverpool needed to give during the 1940s, when the former England captain was also a pupil at Sherborne.

Adams said: "It is necessary to try to maintain one's standard. When April comes, it is an advantage for someone to have had nets during the winter, otherwise you forget what a cricket ball looks like."

This is particularly important now that the summer term is so short, beginning in mid-April when the weather, as in 1998, is often appalling, and cut in two by exams. If schools do not practise in the winter, their boys will sometimes have little opportunity to hone their technique.

Adams, from Pitt, near Winchester, could have toured New Zealand this month with the England Under-19 squad but it would have meant missing the coming term, including mock A-level exams. For someone hoping for a place at Oxford, he had to turn down the opportunity.

He said: "I was obviously disappointed but going was really an impossibility. It was a difficult decision but one that I had to make." He has still benefited from being able to take part in some of the pre-tour sessions.

Mike Nurton, who has been master-in-charge of cricket at Sherborne for 12 years, said of Adams's ability: "He can really hit the ball but is also a sound defensive player. He is one of those rare schoolboys capable of scoring a century. If James is not out within 20 minutes, then you are quite confident that he will make a least 50 or 60, whereas with other boys you are sometimes expecting them to get out to the next ball.

"He times the ball particularly well through the covers but also plays it well through mid-wicket, which is unusual for a schoolboy. Like any good player he hates getting out, whereas some come back to the pavilion with grins on their faces."

Alan Willows, the Sherborne professional, added: "He is a very accomplished schoolboy batsman but whether he takes it up on the professional circuit is partly up to him. It may be a question of whether he wants to do it.

"Most public schoolboys are front-foot players and are not so good on bouncy wickets. However, James can also hook and cut the ball. We have had slower wickets in the past at Sherborne but now the new groundsman is making them quicker."

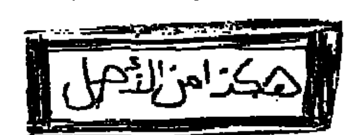
After being encouraged by his father, Mike, James began shining in the game at Twyford, near Winchester. This prep school has been a remarkable cradle of the game, with one team alone producing three England schoolboy players.

Recently, Willows and Tony Middleton, the Hampshire coach, have been formative influences, emphasising the value of concentration and patience. Adams said: "When you get to fifty, you must not lose your head. You have to concentrate on the next fifty."

RUSSELL SACH



Adams is enthu[illegible] honing his skills at Sherborne



SAILING: BRITON BROODS ON A TWIST OF FORTUNE THAT ENDED HIS HOPES IN AROUND ALONE RACE

Golding pays heavy price for mistake

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

SINGLE-HANDED ocean racing is a high-risk sport. The peaks can be of Everest proportions, the troughs worse than the depths of the deepest ocean. Yet reverses are always more bearable if events can be said to be out of one's control as, for example, hitting an unseen floating object, losing a rudder or being turned over by an exceptional wave.

Herein lies Mike Golding's agony. Not only have his chances of winning the Around Alone race disappeared, but he cannot avoid the fact that the awful and unexpected turn of events that put him out of the race happened as a direct result of his own mistake. It would not be an exaggeration to say the former BT Global Challenge winner is inconsolable at present as he tries to come to terms with the collapse of his campaign on a sandbar off Cape Rienga at the top of New Zealand's North Island.

Latest positions 38

Not only was it his error that led to *Team Group 4* being so badly damaged, but it could not have happened at a more agonising stage - the sailing equivalent of the beginning of the home straight on the last lap of a Formula One grand prix, with the cheers of the crowd and your pit crew already ringing in your ears.

Golding was not going to win leg two from Cape Town to Auckland but he had a firm grip on second place and would have been confirmed as overall race leader at the halfway stage with a margin of more than a day and a half over his nearest pursuer. All that was just 200 miles ahead when the boat came to an abrupt halt.

Yesterday, with *Team Group 4* still in harbour at Mangonui, about 150 miles north of Auckland, Golding described for the first time what happened shortly before dusk on Friday. Initial reports suggested the boat had hit a floating object, but in fact it ploughed into a sandbank less than two miles off Cape Rienga.

"The crash caused immediate and severe damage to the swing keel — the specialised keel which enables the boat to travel faster then conventional yachts — and the main bulkhead, resulting in a rapid ingress of water that would have sunk the boat, had it not been fitted with watertight compartments.

At the time, Golding was plotting his position manually on his charts and also was also using electronic charts. The area has strong currents, broken water and shoaling, but Golding had fixed a course for himself which he thought would keep him safely to seaward of all dangers.

"I must have just skimmed a small bank that's not that clear on the charts I have — I must have made a mistake," he said yesterday. "I was probably sucked in slightly by the current — actually more than slightly because I felt what I was doing was fairly conservative but, clearly, it wasn't. I really haven't got many good excuses. I'm afraid."

One look down below and a cursory inspection of the keel was enough for him to realise he was in deep trouble. His feelings then and now? "I'm just devastated," he said. "You know, I feel very emotional about it naturally — it's just so much work wasted for everyone, the sponsors and my support crew.

"When we started this programme we decided to do the Around Alone to gear ourselves up for the Vendee Globe in 2000, but the reality was that we found ourselves doing so well that I believed we could have won it and we were well on our way to doing that. To have lost all that in such a really haven't got many good ex-... stupid way is just mind-blowingly depressing."

Today, *Team Group 4* is being towed to Auckland, where she will be hauled out and a decision will be made as to whether she can be repaired in time to take part in the next leg to Punte del Este, which starts on February 6. Under the rules Golding cannot qualify for any overall prizes in the race because he has now been disqualified from leg two for accepting a tow of more than ten miles.

Despite his depressed state of mind, Golding would like to continue if the boat can be made ready in time. "We could still do well in the next two legs," he said. "Even if the prospect of an overall win has gone, we could create some sort of a moral victory and it's still good for me in terms of expanding my experience."

All black clouds end up having a silver lining for most us but the former Berkshire fireman cannot see one yet. "I suppose this is a test of character or a test of your resolve to do something," he said, "but at this stage I can't see a positive side."



Golding cuts a disconsolate figure on his stricken yacht off the coast of New Zealand. Photograph: Mark Pepper

Autissier goes clear

ISABELLE AUTISSIER, of France, was yesterday confirmed as the new Around Alone race leader after bringing *PRB* into Auckland at the end of a remarkable leg (Edward Gorman writes). Not only did she stop in Tasmania for repairs but she also hit a whale in the final few miles, forcing her to race with an emergency rudder.

Favourable winds helped Autissier to catch up with her fellow countryman, Marc Thiercelin, in *Somewhere*, and she finished the leg in third place just an hour after him.

With Mike Golding out of contention, Autissier now has a total lead of five hours and 57 minutes over Thiercelin with Giovanni Soldini in *FILA*, who was first to Auckland on Friday, in third place, more than 24 hours adrift.

For a moment on Saturday Autissier thought her luck was going the same way as Golding's when she hit the whale. "I was outside and I had a big shock," she said. "I could see a big whale, I could see the animal at the surface and he went off with my rudder."

BASKETBALL

Expulsion propels Sheffield closer to the top

By Nicholas Harling

THE disqualification of Casey Arena, Thames Valley Tigers' high-scoring guard, hastened Sheffield Sharks to a Budweiser League victory yesterday that seriously threatens the leadership of Manchester Giants.

Arena, a 24-year-old American from Boston, and Adrian Anderson, were expelled from the game, which was won 108-92 by the Sharks, for fighting as the third quarter ended. The loss of Arena, a product of the University of Maine, was felt far more acutely by the Tigers than the Sharks missed Anderson, who only comes off their bench for short periods.

Only John McCord, the scorer of 24 points, had done more to keep the Tigers in contention for an upset when Arena departed. Six minutes earlier he had reduced Sharks' 11-point advantage to 62-59 with a characteristic drive to the basket but it was then that the frustration of Anderson's close marking got to him.

"Why don't you keep out of my face?" he apparently said to the Englishman, who defended himself as the pair came to blows. When they were separated, Paul James, the Tigers coach, incurred a technical offence for kicking over an advertising hoarding.

With no one of Arena's versatility to run their back court and no one to compensate for the absence of Jason Siemon, their 6ft 9in centre who was still missing because of injury, the Tigers fell apart during the next five minutes. From being 79-71 adrift, they were suddenly 93-73 in arrears as the Sharks headed for their second victory of an encouraging weekend.

The winning margin would have been even greater had Julio Politi not added to his 28 points towards Tigers' 120-102 victory over Chester Jets the previous evening with another 18. His weekend haul of three pointers was a dozen, which was too many for the liking of Chris Finch, the Sharks coach, who complained: "We kept on giving away big leads and we made hard work of the whole weekend."

Terrell Myers was undoubtedly a key figure for the Sharks, with 25 points last night and 26 the previous evening in the 84-71 win over Newcastle Eagles.

Manchester Giants, the league leaders, were occupied only in the Uni-ball Trophy group game, in which they overcame Milton Keynes 79-61, but the league's third-placed club, Derby Storm, lost 81-76 to London Towers.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sekjer hits form to see Cyphers through

BOWLS: Cumbria and Cyphers, both previous winners of the Denny Cup, found the going tough in the sixth round of the national inter-club championship on Saturday, but came through to qualify for the quarter-finals. With three ends to play, Cumbria and Blackpool Newton Hall were all square at 68-68, but the Carlisle side scored a double, a treble and a four to win by nine shots.

Cyphers, 20 shots adrift of Folkestone, were inspired by Martyn Sekjer's maximum count of eight — the bowling equivalent of a hole in one — and went on to win by 19. In the Liberty Trophy yesterday, it was Gary Smith, Sekjer's Cyphers and Kent colleague, who dropped an eight on the last end of Kent's quarter-final encounter with Cornwall at Southampton. Cornwall went on to win by one shot and claim a place in the semi-finals against Hampshire. Devon, who led Leicestershire 40-14 after five ends, edged through 125-122 and will meet Durham, the champions, who proved too good for Cambridgeshire.

HOCKEY: Mel Clewlow, the England defender, helped Canterbury to make an excellent start in the national indoor league when her 15 goals put them on top of the first division at East Grinstead Sports Club yesterday. But it was Linda Webb, from St Austell, who stole the honours with 16 goals for the second division team, including eight in the win on Saturday over Landsdown. Loughborough Students, also undefeated, head the table with Clifton lying second.

MOTOR RALLYING: Jutta Kleinschmidt, the first woman to win a stage in the Dakar Rally two years ago, took the overall lead in the third stage between Agadir and Tan Tan yesterday. The German took advantage of others' mishaps to win the 230km stage in Morocco.

FOOTBALL: Everton, the women's Premier League champions and beaten 1997 League Cup finalists, and Whitehawk, the Southern Division side, are through to the semi-finals of the AXA FA Women's Premier League Cup. Everton overcame Blyth Spartans Kestrels at Marine FC's ground yesterday, winning 5-0. Whitehawk defeated Langford with two second-half goals.

SKIING: SWEDE REGAINS PRIDE BY PRODUCING SURPRISE VICTORY

Wiberg makes up for lost time

By Our Sports Staff

ALESSANDRO TROVATI

Wiberg, of Sweden, powers her way through to victory

PERNILLA WIBERG, of Sweden, made a stunning comeback yesterday to record the fastest run of the day and win the women's World Cup slalom with her first victory of the season in Maribor, Slovenia.

"I didn't think I could win because the time difference after the first run was too big," Wiberg, who was ninth after the first run, said. "I just thought I would be happy finishing in the top five."

The 28-year-old veteran, winner of three Olympic and five world championship medals, completed the two-run slalom in 1min 54.88sec for her 23rd success on the World Cup circuit.

Hilde Gerg, of Germany, was second, just 29 hundredths of a second behind, while Kristina Koznick, of the US, who was second after the first run, slid to ninth.

"The course didn't hold up very well," Koznick, who cried on her trainer's shoulder at the finish line, said. "Even though I knew there were going to be many ruts, I just made too many mistakes."

Wiberg, who had not won a race in two years, proved that she is still a force to contend with. "My skiing has been getting better and better each race," she said. "Now my goal is to win the worlds in Vail in February."

Meanwhile, Noriaki Kasai, of Japan, captured the third stop of the Four Hills Tour World Cup series in Innsbruck, Austria, to halt the winning run of Martin Schmitt, of Germany.

Only Janne Ahonen, of Finland, broke up a sweep of the top four places by the Japanese, who had been pushed into the background this year by the success of Schmitt, who burst from obscurity to win six of eight World Cup events he has entered this season.

It was Japan's first World Cup win of the season, as Kasai beat Ahonen by 232.5 points to 226.1. Hidaharu Miyahira, of Japan, was third. Schmitt, 20, who had won the first two Four Hills in Germany in impressive style, faded to thirteenth. "I had troubles with my take-off," he said. "I'm a person, not a machine."

Schmitt created a course record of 120.5 metres in qualifying on Saturday but took a bad spill. Afterwards he caused a dispute by complaining about the slope conditions and lack of concern for the safety of the athletes.

Ahonen, who has 813 points, regained the lead in the overall World Cup standings over Schmitt, with 760. The Four Hills event ends on Wednesday at Bischofshofen in Austria.

HOCKEY

Reading rebuffed in final

By Sydney Friskin

VIKINGS, of Denmark, predictably won the DTZ international indoor tournament at Kidderminster yesterday, but they were made to work hard for their 10-8 victory over Reading in the final. As a national side, Vikings understandably looked sharper and their dexterity at corners was a vital factor.

Reading, nevertheless, put up a spirited fight and on three occasions were only a goal behind after having raced into a 2-0 lead in the first seven minutes through goals by Slay, from a corner, and Ashdown. However, a hat-trick by Ulrich in three minutes raised the spirit of the Danes, who soon established their superiority.

Vikings were 6-4 ahead at half-time and they added four more goals during their best spell of the match before Pearn scored two well-taken goals for the English side in the closing minutes.

Reading, who had won their group on Saturday, crushed Barford Tigers 10-2 in the last eight and then beat Harborne 9-4 in the semi-finals. Vikings overcame Slourport 8-5 in the quarter-finals and then defeated Firebrands 10-4 in the last four. Firebrands defeated Harborne 9-6 in the play-off for third place.

Slay, of Reading, was voted the player of the tournament and Keegan, of Beeston, finished as the top goalscorer. Beeston won the plate final with a 5-3 win over Hull.

Drewett's labour produces a show reel of angling beauty

Brian Clarke enjoys the content of a book to challenge the best of them

IF John Drewett ever finds himself on *Mastermind*, he will have no problem picking a specialist subject. I suspect he could say "Hardy Brothers: The Masters, the Men and their Reels, 1873-1939" in his sleep and he probably often has.

Drewett, a London fishing tackle dealer and collector, has just spent the last 15 years researching, writing and privately printing a book of that title. It is a project no publisher could have risked commercially because of its scale and cost. Yet what Drewett has produced is one of the most unusual, idiosyncratic and beautiful publications on an angling subject that the long literature of the sport has seen.

As with most things, it is easy in retrospect to see why the sometime most famous tackle manufacturer in the world should be worthy of a book. The story of the House of Hardy — a name as synonymous with angling as that of Rolls-Royce with cars or Fortnum and Mason with food — is as absorbing a dynastic saga as anything *Dynasty* ever produced.

It was on July 26, 1873, that the two young Hardy brothers — William, 20, and John, 19, — placed an advertisement in "The Alnwick Mercury" to announce that they planned to open a shop together, the following week. They would be "gunsmiths, whitesmiths, cutlers etc". Not a mention was made of angling.

A year later, they were advertising again, this time as gunsmiths and fishing tackle makers. By 1877, they were moving to larger premises. In 1881, they took out the first of innumerable patents. By 1895, they had shops in the best parts of Manchester, Edinburgh and London. By 1901, they had been awarded their first Royal Warrant. By 1913, Rolls-Royce were parking their cars outside Hardy showrooms.

Over the years, fathers, sons, uncles, nephews and in-laws moved into and through the business, the two brothers kept a steely grip all the while. Even family held their jobs on merit. By the 1920s, Hardy Bros were supplying the cream of fishing tackle to the cream of the angling community. Empire-wide. They sold everything and made much — including magnificent rods. Above all, they made reels.

It was his own obsession with reels that wound Drewett into his project. Today, the tackle room of his home outside St Albans is like an annexe to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Gleaming glass cases house one of the finest collections of Hardy reels ever put together. Old rods stand to attention on a revolving carousel. Ancient landing nets fan out across the ceiling.

"But it wasn't always like this," he says. "I really only began collecting in 1979. When I first thought somebody should be writing a book about the reels, I had no thought it would end up being me."

In truth, what Drewett has produced is less a book, more a monument. It is a slab of production, as big as a headstone. Even the cheapest hardback version — it sells at £125, but there are other versions available — weighs 5½lb. Once past the barrier of its surprisingly cluttered cover, an Aladdin's cave opens — for tackle collectors, bibliophiles, angling historians, the idly curious and the many who simply love an off-beat fishing read (enquiries to Woodys of Wembley, 565 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2DW).

One of the boldest decisions Drewett made — to give as much space to some of the men in overalls as to the famous men who employed them — is wonderfully vindicated. The owners of old Hardy reels can now look at the initials stamped on the inside of a casing and the master craftsman who fashioned it by hand. The effect is that an object much loved by the owner becomes an integral part of some other person's life - often a life illustrated with faded family photographs and the fruits of Drewett's burrowing.

And so, alongside the well-known and, one comes to sense, the not-always-attractive Hardys, we meet men like William Dingley. Dingley — the 'D' of the reel-stamp — turns out to be the man who developed the Silex casting reel, the product which, with Foster Hardy's "Perfect", was one of the two most famous designs the company ever produced. Joe Johnson (J.A.J.), the solver of knotty problems and the builder of "specials" is there. So is the great Arthur Wall, whose initials A.H.W. adorn some of the finest reels still turning today.

All of it, though, is mere garnish to the reels themselves, all superbly photographed from inside and out, in whole and in part by Drewett's collaborator, David [illegible]. There are the fly reels, [illegible] trepins, the multipliers. There are the freshwater reels and the sea reels. There are [illegible] cations, ancient advertisement, lists of patents and production records. Humbugs scattered like groundbait ... none more delicious than the photograph of a Monsieur ... camelle standing in a shell hole on the Western Front ... a throwaway caption ... this was the man who found time to write an article for the Fishing Gazette in 1915 on The Effects of Shrapnel and Shell on Trout.

The House of Hardy has stood on a pinnacle alone ... this extraordinary labour of love, Drewett has ... headlines and its heritage ... though in aspic.

☐ *Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month.*

... with his treasures

Photograph, page 38

ATHLETICS

Champions who benefit from help in long run

David Powell on the importance of charities in promoting the development of Britain's top athletes

LAURE RAMPLING, an Essex policeman, has run the London Marathon for a variety of charities. He has raised thousands of pounds for leukaemia research, thousands more for a children's hospice, and has helped to send a British boy with cerebral palsy to an institute in Hungary for treatment. Lately, though, Rampling has changed tack, for which he makes no apology.

While those he has assisted in the past might be perceived as more deserving causes, Rampling is not taking lightly his responsibility to the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund. It is a charity that raises money for promising young athletes and among those who benefited in their youth are Iwan Thomas and Denise Lewis, Britain's athletes of the year.

"Perhaps it is not as important as helping out a cancer charity, but it is important," Rampling said. "This is a good direction to move in. These are young athletes who would not normally get assistance without help of this kind. Some of these kids are from deprived backgrounds.

"You look at the cancer and children's charities and think, by doing this, you are not helping people who are afflicted in some way but those who are strong and healthy, but it makes us all feel good to see people like Iwan Thomas do what he did this year."

As teenagers, Thomas was helped for three years, Lewis for two. Steve Smith, the Great Britain men's team captain, and Jamie Baulch, the British indoor record-holder for 400 metres, are others who were assisted by the Pickering fund before making their names.

The numbers are staggering: 54 fund beneficiaries were in action in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur last summer and another 28 took part in the world junior championships in Annecy, France. "The charity would not be in existence if it was not for the Flora London Marathon," Jean Pickering, who runs it, said.

"If Britain was to come away from the Olympics with a dozen gold medals, we would all enjoy the glow of that achievement," Rampling said. "I sat on the edge of my seat as Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell won gold and it brought a lump to my throat. We need to help these young people to bring accolades to our country."

Some £40,000 is distributed each year to young athletes by the Pickering fund, set up in 1991 in memory of the BBC athletics commentator and coach. More than half is raised through the London Marathon. In other words, Britain's most visual and popular athletics event, a road race, is playing an essential part in helping to encourage developing talent in track and field.



Thomas: achievements



Lewis: assistance

"It is crucial to us," Jean Pickering, Ron's wife, said. "These youngsters are 15, 16 and 17 and get no lottery funding. There is a lot of wastage at that age because kids lose heart as they go from juniors to seniors. The money is geared towards keeping them in the sport."

Darren Campbell exemplifies the dangers. A double silver-medal-winner at the world junior championships in 1992, Campbell drifted out of the sport and into football when he found the transition to the senior ranks difficult. Campbell returned, encouraged by Christie, to become European senior 100 metres champion last year, but other finalists in the class of 92 have been lost from the sport.

"We helped around 200 youngsters last year, when we raised £21,000 through the marathon, and we will help another 200 this year," Jean Pickering said. "I feel chuffed that we have been able to do so much."

The 1998 Flora London Marathon raised £15.7 million for charity, an increase of £5 million in two years. Of the 23,000 who ran, 76 per cent respresented a charity, up 11.5 per cent since 1996. "No other marathon in the world has a charity side as large and dynamic," David Bedford, the London Marathon head of marketing, said.

□ Anybody wishing to run in the 1999 Flora London Marathon for the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund should contact the fund administrator, Norman Urmston, on 01992 467712.



Radcliffe, second from the right, leads the Great North cross-country race. Wami, the winner, is on the left

Ethiopians run off with honours

MILLION WOLDE and Gete Wami, of Ethiopia, produced superb performances against high-quality fields to win the Great North cross-country race at Durham.

The pair were outstanding in the second International Amateur Athletic Federation World Cross Challenge fixture of the season, which included Jon Brown and Paula Radcliffe, both of Britain.

Wolde, 19, who trains with his countryman, Haile Gebrselassie, showed all the hallmarks that already have him pencilled in as a natural successor to the world record-holder at 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres by winning his 9km contest in 27min 02sec, two seconds quicker than Thomas Nyariki, of Kenya, who was a second ahead of Brown.

The good news for the Britain selectors is that Brown wants to represent his country in the World Cross Championships at Belfast in March. The runner declared himself satisfied with his performance. "I have won here for the last two years, but I think this is possibly my best ever run in this event," he said.

The Durham meeting has also been a happy hunting ground for Radcliffe, whose wins in 1993 and 1995 announced her arrival on the senior international scene, but she could finish only fourth on Saturday.

Wami ran the 6.5km course in 21min 51sec, 13 seconds ahead of the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, Jackline Maranga, of Kenya, and 19 seconds in front of Anne Marie Sandell, of Finland.

Radcliffe, who was a further eight seconds behind, blamed her disappointing result on a bug. "To be honest, I thought I would be struggling earlier in the race," he said. "I felt good for the first three laps, but when Wami put her foot down I couldn't respond and she went away."

John Mayock was furious with himself and a steward after misjudging the finish of his 3km race. He and Philip Tulba, of Basingstoke, thought they were on their last lap when they still had another to run.

"It was diabolical," said Mayock. "I know I should have been counting the laps but I was racing to win. When the steward opened the tape and ushered us towards the finishing straight I just went for it."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Arizona upset Cowboys' wagon

By Our Sports Staff

ADRIAN MURRELL scored one touchdown and ran 74 yards to set up another on Saturday, leading the Arizona Cardinals to a 20-7 upset of the Dallas Cowboys, their first play-off victory in 52 years. The Cowboys had won nine matches in a row over the Cardinals, who now advance to a National Football Conference quarter-final next weekend away to Minnesota Vikings.

Aeneas Williams intercepted two passes for Arizona, who had not beaten a team with a winning record all season until stunning the Cowboys.

"I went out like David did," Williams said. "All he had was a slingshot. I had the Arizona Cardinals. This group of guys has fought all season. Nobody gave us credit. Credit must be earned. We earned it."

Jake "The Snake" Plummer passed to Murrell for Arizona's first touchdown after 12min 13sec, Chris Jacke adding a 37-yard field goal to give Arizona a 10-0 lead at the break. Murrell beat the Dallas defense on the third play of the second half to set up Plummer's touchdown pass to Larry Centers and Jacke added a 46-yard field goal.

In the other play-off match, the American Football Conference contest between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills, Trace Armstrong, of Miami, snuffed out Doug Flutie's attempted rally in the final seconds as the Dolphins ended a three-game play-off losing streak to Buffalo with a 24-17 victory in Miami. The Dolphins' first play-off victory since 1994 leaves them with a quarter-final match at either Denver or the New York Jets.

Flutie completed 21 of his 36 passes for a career-high 360 yards against the Dolphins, but the Bills were turned over five times. The most crucial came at the Miami five-yard line, when Flutie hesitated as he looked for a receiver and Armstrong knocked the ball loose. Shane Burton recovered with nine seconds to play to clinch the victory for Miami.

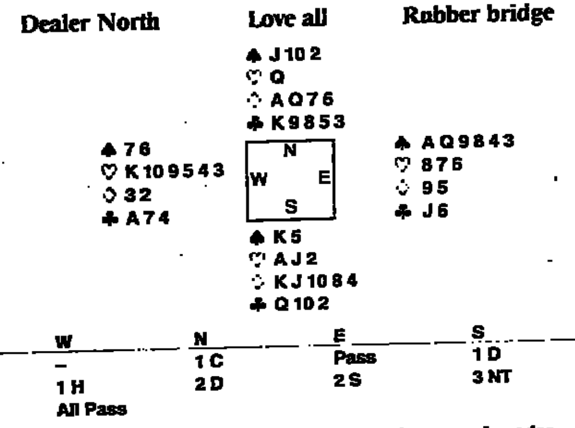
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By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Two good players made mistakes on the first trick of this deal, a godsend for a bridge writer – none of that interminable rooting through the dunghill to unearth a gem at trick eleven.

Dealer North | Love all | Rubber bridge



W	N	E	S
–	1 C	Pass	1 D
1 H	2 D	2 S	3 NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: seven of spades.

On the lead of the seven of spades the declarer (Howard Cohen) played the jack from dummy. East (Tom Townsend) covered with the queen and Cohen won with the king. Now after taking his diamonds he had to play a club, and West went in with the ace to play another spade, enabling East to cash five tricks in the suit for two off.

Do you see the errors on the first trick? As East is playing his partner to hold a doubleton spade, he should just duck the first spade, preserving the defence's communication. However, once East has covered the jack of spades, South should have withheld his king. Now the defence cannot run the spades, but it is not all over. East switches to a heart, which West wins and returns a heart. Declarer has seven tricks in the red suits and needs two more. The problem is that if he plays on clubs he may have to lose two tricks there. But if he plays spades first, East can win and clear the hearts.

The solution is to start by cashing the king and ace of diamonds. When the suit breaks 2-2, it is likely that East has a 6-3-2-2 shape. So declarer continues with a club to the queen. If West wins and returns a club declarer can rise with the king. Here the jack falls but even if it doesn't, provided East has no more than two clubs declarer can play spades safely to set up his ninth trick.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Bunched field

After the early rounds of the Hastings Premier tournament the race for the lead is intense with only half a point separating the leaders Sokolov and Shipov from the pursuing pack. In the fourth round Sokolov struck an important blow by defeating Shipov in a highly theoretical line of the Grunfeld Defence where White's initiative turned out to be insufficient to compensate for his lost pawn.

White: Sergei Shipov
Black: Ivan Sokolov
Hastings Premier 1999

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	e4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	Bg7
7	Nf3	c5
8	Rb1	0-0
9	Be2	Qa5
10	Bd2	cxd4
11	cxd4	Qxa2
12	0-0	Bg4
13	Bg5	h6
14	Bh4	a5
15	Rxb7	g5
16	Bg3	a4
17	h4	Nc6
18	hxg5	hxg5
19	d5	Bxf3
20	Bxf3	Nd4
21	d6	e5
22	d7	Qe6
23	Bg4	Qc6
24	Rb1	Qxe4
25	Re1	Qd5
26	Bf5	Rad8
27	Be4	Qe6
28	Qh5	f5
29	Bd3	Rxd7
30	Rbc1	Qh6
31	Qxh6	Bxh6
32	Bxe5	Bg7
33	Rc7	Rxc7
34	Bxc7	Bf6
35	Rb1	a3
36	Kf1	Kg7
37	Bc4	Rh8
38	Kg1	a2
39	Bxa2	Ne2+
40	Kf1	Nc3
41	g4	Nxb1

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Matthew Sadler, the British grandmaster, is one of those in the hunt for the lead, while grandmaster Jon Speelman has a respectable 50 per cent. However, Tony Miles is languishing without a single win whilst local grandmaster James Plaskett is at the bottom of the table, equal with the French representative, Fressinet, with two losses and no wins.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keene@chessaol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ROMPU
a. Mutual enjoyment
b. Interrupted
c. A secret organisation

HYPOID
a. Many-sided
b. A disease
c. Gearing

BEGUINES
a. Dancers
b. Mendicants
c. Pious women

LAMPASSETTE
a. A scalpel
b. Damask
c. Stage-lighting

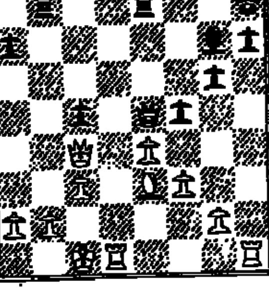
Answers on page 43

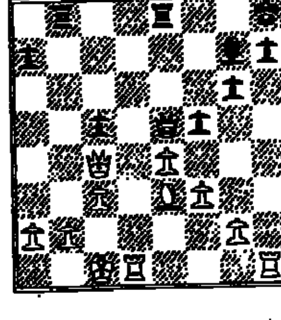
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pavlovic — Karapanos, Ponormo 1998.

The black position appears to be the more aggressive but White broke through with a fine combination. How?





Solution on page 43

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Saturday: AFC wild-card game: Miami 24 Buffalo 17. NFC wild-card game: Dallas 7 Arizona 20. [illegible]

BASKETBALL

[illegible]

	P	W	L	Pts
Leicester Riders	6	4	2	8
Thames Valley Tigers	5	2	3	4
Milton Keynes Lions	7	1	6	2
Worthing Bears	7	0	7	0

GROUP B: Saturday: Birmingham Bullets 77 London Leopards 66. Yesterday: Greater London Leopards 89 Edinburgh Rocks 81

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	3	3	0	6
Birmingham Bullets	4	3	1	6
Newcastle Eagles	4	2	2	4
Greater London	3	1	2	2
Edinburgh Rocks	4	0	4	0

BOWLS

[illegible]

CRICKET

One-day match

Australia A v Sri Lanka

PERTH (Australia A won toss): Australia A won by eight wickets

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Campbell b Nicholson . . . 5
† R S Kaluwitharana c Blewett b Nicholson . . . 21
A A W Gunawardene b Dale . . . 2
M S Atapattu run out . . . 12
*A Ranatunga not out . . . 21
R S Mahanama lbw b Lee . . . 2
H P Tillekeratne c Campbell b Lee . . . 1
U D U Chandana c Blewett b Lee . . . 10
G P Wickremasinghe b Lee . . . 0
D N T Zoysa b Denton . . . 0
R L Perera b Harvey . . . 0
Extras (lb 1, w 14) . . . 15
Total (25.1 overs) . . . 89

[illegible]

CYCLING

[illegible]

DARTS

[illegible]

HOCKEY

[illegible]

ICE HOCKEY

[illegible]

MOTOR RALLYING

[illegible] (654km, 100km timed section): Cars: 1, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) 1hr 13min 22sec; 2, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 1min 49sec; 3, M Prieto (Sp, Mitsubishi) 3:02. Motorbikes: 1, H Kinigadner (Austria, KTM) 1hr 11min 22sec; 2, J Roma (Sp, KTM) at 16sec; 3, F Fesola (It, KTM) 36. Third stage (510km, 230km timed section). Cars: 1, J Kleinschmidt (Ger, Mitsubishi) 2hr 20min 26sec; 2, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) at 2min 18sec; 3, J-L Schlesser (Fr, Schlesser) 4:07. Motorbikes: 1, Roma 2hr 14min 7sec; 2, H [illegible]

NORDIC SKIING

[illegible]

RUGBY LEAGUE

[illegible]

SAILING

[illegible] 3,157; 4, Taeping (N Fleming) 3,168; 5, Chayadita (T Hedges) 3,188; 6, Thermopylae (M Tod) 3,199.

SKIING

MARIBOR, Slovenia: Women's Alpine skiing World Cup: Super-G: 1, H Gerg (Ger) 1min 30.17sec; 2, M Ertl (Ger) 1:30.30; 3, M [illegible]

SKI JUMPING

[illegible]

SQUASH

[illegible]

TENNIS

PERTH, Australia: Hopman Cup: Qualifying round: France 2 Zimbabwe 1 (France names first: S Testud bt C Black 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; G Raoux bt W Black 6-1, 6-3; Raoux and Testud lost to C Black and W Black 7-6, 7-6). South Africa 2 Australia 1 (South Africa names first: A Coetzer bt J Dokic 6-1, 6-0; W Ferreira bt M Philippoussis 6-2, 6-3; Coetzer and Ferreira lost to Dokic and Philippoussis 6-2, 6-3)

ATHLETICS

Cross country

DURHAM: IAAF World Cross Challenge: Men (9km): 1, M Wolde (Eth) 27min 2sec; 2, T Nyariki (Ken) 27:04; 3, J Brown (GB/Sheffield) 27:06; 4, J Kosgei (Ken) 27:21; 5, M Mourhit (Bel) 27:42; 6, P Olmedo (Mex) 27:47; 7, K Skah (Mor) 27:47; 8, J Kibor (Ken) 27:50; 9, A Pearson (GB/Longwood) 27:57. **Other British placings:** 13, D Burrows (Birchfield) 28:35; 15, B Royden (Medway) 28:37; 17, D Tune (Rotherham) 28:38; 19, A Mussett (Colchester Harriers) 28:53; 20, M Vaux-Harvey (Stourport) 28:54; 22, B Rushworth (Sunderland) 28:57; 23, S Bell (Chester-le-Street) 28:57; 25, T Wall (Morpeth) 29:09; 26, D Buzza (Cornwall) 29:09; 29, R Nerurkar (Bingley) 29:34. **Leading overall positions** (after two matches): 1, Nyariki 39pts; 2, Mourhit 30; 3, Olmedo 26; equal 4, R Limo (Eth) and Wolde (Eth) 25; 6, H Mekonen (Eth) 22; 7, J Regalo (Por) 20; 8, Brown 19. **Other British placings:** 16, Pearson 12; 21, Burrows 8; 25, Royden 6; 29, Tune 4; 33, Mussett 2; 35, Vaux-Harvey 1. **Women** (6.5km): 1, G Wami (Eth) 21:58; 2, J Maranga (Ken) 22:11; 3, A Sandell (Fin) 22:17; 4, P Radcliffe (GB/Bedford) 22:25; 5, N Mugo (Ken) 22:32; 6, N Rocha (Mex) 22:51; 7, M L Larraga (Sp) 22:59; 8, A Waterlow (GB/Sale) 23:05. **Other British placings:** 9, V McPherson (City of Glasgow) 23:07; 11, V Pincombe (Minehead) 23:19; 13, H Yelling (Hounslow) 23:31; 14, H Pattinson (Preston) 23:54; J Ingman (Barnsley) 24:05; 17, M Sutton (Westbury) 24:10; 18, L MacDougall (City of Glasgow) 24:21; 19, K Matthew (Middlesbrough and Cleveland) 24:29. **Leading overall positions** (after two races): 1, Wami 50; 2, Sandell 41; 3, Maranga 36; 4, Radcliffe 34; 5, Rocha 22; 6, A Worku (Eth) 19. **Other British placings:** 11, Yelling 14; 13, Waterlow 13; 15, McPherson 12; 18, Pincombe 10; 20, A Wyeth (Parkside Harrow) 9; 23, Pattinson 8; 24, Ingman 6; 26, Sutton 4; 28, MacDougall 3; 30, Matthew and S Morris (Hertford and Ware) 2. **BUPA Great North meeting: Invitation men: 3km:** 1, S Barden (Belgrave) 8min 30sec; 2, D Heath (Blackheath) 8:33; 3, G Di Napoli (It) 8:38; 4, A Whiteman (GEC Avionics) 8:39; 5, N Caddy (Newquay and Par) 8:40; 6, J Moorhouse (Birchfield) 8:40. **7.8km:** 1, P Grime (Durham University) 26:18; 2, R Hand (Durham City) 26:24; 3, A Turnbull (Royal Air Force) 26:29; 4, R Brown (Morpeth) 26:32; 5, G Stewart (Edinburgh University) 26:54. **Teams:** 1, Royal Air Force 36pts; 2, Durham City 54; 3, Royal Air Force B 75. **Veteran:** I Heggan (Sunderland) 26:56. **Over-45:** A Buckley (Holmfirth) 27:27. **Over-50:** T Probin (Bingley) 28:07. **Open women: 5.2km:** 1, E Brooker (Shaftesbury Barnet) 20:09; 2, E Brady (Trafford) 21:06; 3, C Smallwood (Jarrow & Hebburn) 21:24. **Teams:** 1, Bedford 63; 2, Elswick 86; 3, Spenborough 120. **Veteran:** 1, L Marr (Tynedale) 21:46; 2, C Wright (Imperial, Harrogate) 22:08; 3, A Adams (Chester-le-Street) 22:59. **Over-50:** V Hancock (Durham City) 23:18. **Junior men** (6.5km): 1, C Livesey (Preston) 21:34; 2, G Melvin (Border) 21:48; 3, R Maycock (Sale) 21:59. **Junior women** (5.2km): 1, K Caffel (Oxford City) 19:43; 2, G Philips (Kendal) 20:33; 3, S Cripsey (Bedford) 20:43. **Men: Under-17** (5.2km): 1, M McCormick (Tynedale) 17:55; 2, S Forester (Morpeth) 18:02; 3, A Ford (Blackpool & Fylde) 18:07. **Teams:** 1, Sunderland 37; 2, Morpeth 40; 3, Hull Springhead 50. **Women: Under-17** (3.6km): 1, C Broe (Ichear Dee) 13:29; 2, C Wilson (Morpeth) 13:42; 3, J McCrone (Central) 13:47. **Teams:** 1, Morpeth 22; 2, Hull Springhead 60; 3, Liverpool 67. **Boys: Under-15** (3.6km): 1, L Pickering (Bridlington) 12:20; 2, C Stoker (Sunderland) 12:27; 3, S Chush (Derby & County) 12:31. **Teams:** 1, Sunderland 21; 2, Bridlington 29; 3, Skyrac 41. **Girls: Under-15** (3.6km): 1, C Birch (Liverpool Pembroke Sefton) 13:29; 2, K Worrall (Bedford) 14:05; 3, C Wickham (Gateshead) 14:09. **Teams:** 1, Bedford 21; 2, Hull Springhead 50; 3, Liverpool 54. **Boys: Under-13** (2km): 1, J Horsman (Bedford) 6:20; 2, K Wilson (Morpeth) 6:31; 3, P Michaelson (Liverpool) 6:35. **Teams:** 1, Mansfield 27; 2, Morpeth 44; 3, Birtley 70. **Girls: Under-13** (2km): 1, Z Gowland (Wakefield) 7:01; 2, C Moss (Bedford) 7:04; 3, L Huston (Carlisle Aspatria) 7:12. **Teams:** 1, Wakefield 11; 2, Hull Springhead 31; 3, Gateshead 57

RUISLIP WOODS: Metropolitan League: Men (5.5 miles): 1, S Sharp (Puma TVH) 29min 41sec; 2, J Brooks (Hercules Wimbledon, guest) 29:45; 3, A Fooks (Puma TVH) 30:13; 4, J Guiney (London Irish) 30:37; 5, C Beecham (Highgate) 31:14; 6, J Pes (Highgate) 31:22. **Teams:** 1, Puma TVH 1,750pts; 2, Hillingdon 1,551; 3, Woodford 1,480. **Veteran:** P Gibb (North London) 32:18. **Overall leading positions** (after four matches): 1, Puma TVH 8,330; 2, Verlea 7,329; 3, North London 7,208. **Women** (2.75 miles): 1, S Miles (Hillingdon) 15:52; 2, L Towns (Puma TVH) 16:02; 3, J Christie (Hillingdon) 16:22. **Teams:** 1, Hillingdon 239; 2, North London 209; 3, London Irish 202; 4, Puma TVH 202. **Overall leading positions** (after three matches): 1, Puma TVH 1,131; 2, Hillingdon 1,102; 3, North London 1,019.

Road running

CLEETHORPES: New Year's Day 10km race: 1, S Bell (Lincoln Wellington) 33min 26sec; 2, P Clark (Cleethorpes) 33:58; 3, M Packer (Louth) 34:04. **Team:** Cleethorpes 11pts. **Veteran:** S Green (Cleethorpes) 35:36. **Over-50:** D Reffin (Notts) 37:32. **Over-55:** D Myers (Cleethorpes) 40:21. **Over-60:** C Dawkins (Cleethorpes) 40:06. **Over-65:** A Harries (Cleethorpes) 49:43. **Over-70:** D Holt (Cleethorpes) 53:48. **Women:** 1, D Barclay (Wolds Veterans) 38:38; 2, F Fenwick (Grimsby) 39:57; 3, K Palmer (Cleethorpes) 40:50. **Veteran: Over-50:** R Armstrong (Doncaster and Stainforth) 49:04. **Over-60:** J Powell (Wolds Veterans) 51:16.

COVENTRY: Festive 5 miles race: 1, J Rotich (Northbrook Running Club) 24min 46sec; 2, M Bouldstridge (Birchfield) 25:43; 3, B Collins (Coventry Godiva) 25:54. **Teams:** 1, Coventry Godiva 38pts; 2, Massey Ferguson 48; 3, Leamington 109. **Veteran:** G Payne (George Eliot Striders) 26:33. **Over-45:** J Peavoy (Massey Ferguson) 27:10. **Over-50:** P Kelly (Alvis) 28:26. **Over-55:** G Patton (Massey Ferguson) 28:00. **Over-60:** A Oglesby (Massey Ferguson) 33:18. **Over-65:** G Ashby (West Bromwich Harriers) 33:32. **Women:** 1, S Lamb (Sale) 28:48; 2, T Brown (Coventry Godiva) 30:25; 3, V Wilson (Solihull and Small Heath) 31:52. **Veteran: Over-45:** S Carey (Nuneaton) 32:28.

EPNEY: New Year's Day 10 miles race: 1, R Shipway (Woodstock) 53min 51sec; 2, P Kinsella (Cheltenham) 56:34; 3, R Matthews (Oak Park) 57:34. **Veteran:** K Burke (Stourbridge) 58:55. **Over-45:** W Hill (Crawley) 59:27. **Over-50:** N Long (Stroud) 59:41. **Over-55:** B Attwood (Gloucester) 1:12:44. **Over-60:** A Fisher (Gloucester) 1:08:31. **Over-70:** D Whiting (Road Runners Club) 1:21:35. **Women:** 1, S Bourne (Unattached) 1:07:45; 2, J Shaw (Cheltenham) 1:10:41; 3, H Davies (Cheltenham) 1:10:52. **Veteran: Over-50:** D Philips (Gloucester) 1:11:18.

HEREFORD: Woodpecker New Year's Day 10km race: 1, E Traylor (Prestigne Pacers) 32min 29sec; 2, S Payne (Royal Navy) 32:38; 3, R Richards (Severn) 34:44. **Team:** Wye Valley Runners 48pts. **Veteran:** S Littlewood (unattached) 36:10. **Over-50:** D Evans (Newton) 36:49. **Over-60:** L Bailey (Midland Vets) 41:08. **Over-70:** A Watts (Fam Holen) 54:00. **Women:** 1, L Williams (Swansea) 37:59; 2, V Parry (Muswell Hill) 38:14; 3, C Olivant (Swindon) 41:35. **Teams:** 1, Charnwood 339; 2, Northbrook 375. **Veteran:** A Cooke (Hereford Couriers) 41:42. **Over-45:** S Koster (Wye Valley) 51:01.

HYDE PARK: National Playing Fields Association New Year's 10km race: 1, A Koikai (Ilford) 31min 5sec; 2, C Johnston (Shaftesbury Barnet, Aus) 31:08; 3, F Cabada (US) 32:18. **Teams:** 1, Ilford 21pts; 2, Ranelagh 150; 3, Muswell Hill 157. **Veteran:** H Jones (Ranelagh) 32:55. **Over-50:** L O'Hare (Barnet) 35:34. **Women:** 1, M Bradley (Overton) 36:23; 2, D Sanderson (Watford) 36:33; 3, J Laws (Muswell Hill) 38:18. **Teams:** 1, Serpentine 53; 2, Reading Roadrunners 106; 3, Dulwich Runners 160.

KENDAL: New Year's Day 10km: 1, S Cotton (unattached) 32min 9sec; 2, S Murdoch (Border) 32:43; 3, P Lowry (Lancaster and Morecambe) 33:25. **Team:** Lancaster and Morecambe 15pts. **Veteran:** L Hill (Dumfries Road Runners) 35:45. **Over-45:** K Baker (Kendal) 38:40. **Over-50:** H Goll (Northern Vets) 37:31. **Over-60:** E Brady (Road Runners Club) 44:22. **Women:** 1, J Clark (Pudsey and Bramley) 37:07; 2, C Tomkinson (Charnwood) 38:25; 3, D Kelly (Border) 41:23. **Veteran:** J Pound (Chorley) 42:30. **Over-50:** M Meredith (Prestatyn) 43:51.

NEWCASTLE: Morpeth to Newcastle 14.1 miles race: 1, I Hudspith (Morpeth) 1hr 13min 29sec; 2, M Hudspith (Morpeth) 1:13:29; 3, M Price (Sunderland) 1:13:39; 4, D Cavers (Border) 1:14:02; 5, A Shepherd (Morpeth) 1:15:07. **Teams:** 1, Morpeth 8pts; 2, Morpeth B 33; 3, Morpeth C 62. **Veteran:** A Rowe (Wesham) 1:19:03. **Over-45:** A Jenkins (Morpeth) 1:21:26. **Over-50:** J Bell (Elswick) 1:20:35. **Women:** 1, T Brindley (Aberdeen) 1:24:54; 2, S Branney (City of Glasgow) 1:27:32; 3, R Cooper (unattached) 1:32:33. **Team:** 1, Morpeth 58; 2, Blaydon 91; 3, Blyth 92.

SANDHURST: Gloucester New Year's Day 5 miles race: 1, M Hula (Bristol) 25min 22sec (course record); 2, S Lodge (Stroud) 26:16; 3, B Leary (Cheltenham) 27:34. **Team:** Severn 50. **Veteran:** D Richardson (Worcester) 27:45. **Women:** 1, M Wannell (Exeter) 29:11; 2, L Dunn (Cheltenham) 34:12.

WHATSTANDWELL: Hangover New Year's Day 5 miles race: 1, D Symonds (Gade Valley) 27min 55sec; 2, D Yates (Matlock) 28:27; 3, D Quinlan (Mansfield) 28:36. **Veteran:** N Kent (Unattached) 31:16. **Over-50:** K Allen (Notts) 33:45. **Over-60:** B Howitt (Matlock) 36:29. **Women:** 1, C Williams (unattached) 34:23; 2, P Cranton (Holme Pierrepont) 35:42; 3, E Evans (Derby Ladies) 37:57. **Veteran: Over-45:** V Brockwell (Holme Pierrepont) 41:02.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	70	100	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	31/12
Austria								
Kitzbühel	20	68	Hard	Artificial	Varied	Fair	0	03/01
Obergurgl	30	145	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	03/01
Canada								
Lake Louise	95	125	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	31/12
France								
Alpe d'Huez	35	85	Hard	Open	Varied	Cloud	-1	03/01
Chamonix	50	120	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	0	03/01
Flaine	60	160	Good	Open	Crusty	Snow	-1	03/01
La Clusaz	30	80	Fair	Open	Varied	Snow	0	03/01
La Plagne	55	150	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	0	03/01
Megève	10	90	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	2	03/01
Méribel	40	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	03/01
Tignes	55	145	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	03/01
Val Thorens	50	120	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-2	03/01
Val d'Isère	55	115	Good	Artificial	Powder	Snow	-4	03/01
Italy								
Cervinia	10	155	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-2	03/01
Cortina	5	25	Hard	Artificial	Packed	Cloud	-4	21/12
Livigno	15	90	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-2	01/01
Norway								
Geilo	60	60	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-5	30/12
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	10	75	Fair	Artificial	Powder	Snow	-2	03/01
Davos	25	115	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-2	03/01
Grindelwald	20	90	Fair	Worn	Varied	Cloud	2	03/01
Klosters	25	115	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-1	03/01
Murren	30	80	Hard	Open	Varied	Snow	-1	03/01
Saas Fee	20	145	Good	Icy	Varied	Snow	-1	03/01
Verbier	15	150	Good	Hard	Varied	Snow	-1	03/01
Wengen	20	50	Fair	Open	Varied	Snow	3	03/01
Zermatt	20	100	Fair	Open	Varied	Snow	2	03/01
United States								
Aspen	60	83	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-16	03/01
Deer Valley	77	85	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-11	31/12

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes.

Phil Harper, of Leek, tries to elude a Harborne defender in the quarter-finals of the DTZ Midland indoor tournament yesterday. Harborne won 10-1 but lost in the semi-finals to Reading. Report, page 36. Photograph: Richard Lea-Hair

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup

Third round

Preston v Arsenal (8.0)

Scottish League

First division

Hamilton v Clydebank (3.0)

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Gillingham v Leicester

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Bury v Chester (1.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Luton (at Kingstonian, 7.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v West Bromwich (7.0). Third division: Carlisle v Darlington (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: World indoor championships (at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk)

DARTS: Embassy World championship (at Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green)

SNOOKER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish, British Open and World Championship (at Norbreck Castle, Blackpool).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round: Northern section: Darlington v Chesterfield (7.45); Halifax v York (7.45), Hull v Wrexham (7.30), Lincoln v Mansfield (7.45), Rochdale v Stoke (7.45); Wigan v Scarborough (7.45). Southern section: Bournemouth v Peterborough (7.45); Brighton v Millwall (7.45), Cambridge Utd v Northampton (7.45); Exeter v Southend (7.45), Luton v Walsall (7.45), Swansea v Gillingham (7.45), Torquay v Fulham (7.15); Wycombe v Brentford (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Brechin v Montrose (7.30)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FA XI v Combined Services (at Burton Albion, 7.30)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: London Scottish v Gloucester (7.30). Newcastle v Bedford (7.30); Northampton v London Irish (7.30), Sale v Bath (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (7.0)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round: Northern section: Scunthorpe v Carlisle (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Wasps v Saracens (7.30)

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: First round, second leg: Leicester (5) v Rugby (8) (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Towers v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30).

THURSDAY

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Sheffield Steelers (7.0). Newcastle Riverkings v Cardiff Devils (7.15).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Tranmere v Wolverhampton (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Caerphilly v Canada (7.0). Pool B: Bridgend v Romania (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Milton Keynes Lions v Derby Storm (7.30), Birmingham Bullets v Sheffield Sharks (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Liverpool, Blackburn v Leeds, Coventry v Nottingham Forest, Everton v Leicester, Middlesbrough v Aston Villa, Newcastle v Chelsea; Sheffield Wednesday v Tottenham; Southampton v Charlton, Wimbledon v Derby

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Port Vale, Crewe v Norwich; Huddersfield v Bury, Ipswich v Grimsby, Oxford Utd v Bristol City, Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland, Stockport v Bradford, Swindon v Sheffield Utd, Watford v Portsmouth, West Bromwich v Barnsley. Second division: Blackpool v Manchester City (12.0). Bristol Rovers v Burnley; Chesterfield v Colchester; Fulham v Macclesfield; Lincoln v Bournemouth; Luton v Wycombe; Millwall v Wigan, Notts County v Oldham, Reading v Wrexham, Stoke v Northampton; Walsall v Gillingham, York v Preston. Third division: Barnet v Darlington, Brighton v Carlisle, Cambridge Utd v Torquay; Cardiff v Hartlepool; Exeter v Swansea, Halifax v Peterborough, Hull v Rotherham, Leyton Orient v Chester; Mansfield v Brentford; Rochdale v Plymouth, Scunthorpe v Shrewsbury; Southend v Scarborough

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE: Barrow v Rushden and Diamonds, Doncaster v Cheltenham; Farnborough v Stevenage, Hereford v Hednesford, Kettering v Morecambe; Kidderminster v Leek; Kingstonian v Hayes; Northwich v Dover, Southport v Yeovil, Telford v Woking; Welling v Forest Green.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Greenock Morton; Clydebank v Ayr, Raith v Falkirk, St Mirren v Hibernian; Stranraer v Hamilton. Second division: Forfar v Clyde, Inverness CT v Arbroath; Livingston v East Fife, Partick v Alloa; Stirling v Queen of South. Third division: Berwick v Ross County, Cowdenbeath v Brechin; East Stirling v Dumbarton; Montrose v Albion; Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 1.30 unless stated

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fourth round: Gloucester v Worcester (3.0); Harlequins v Esher (3.0); Leicester v Barking (3.0). Moseley v Lydney (3.0); Newcastle v Bath (2.0), Nottingham v Exeter (3.0), Rotherham v Leeds (2.15); Sale v Northampton (3.0). Sedgley Park v Wasps (2.15), Waterloo v Orrell (2.15).

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division north: Aspatria v Whitchurch (2.30), Nuneaton v New Brighton (2.30); Stourbridge v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30), Walsall v Hinckley (2.30), Winnington Park v Lichfield (2.30). Second division south: Cheltenham v Norwich (2.30); North Walsham v Met Police (2.15); Plymouth v Tabard (2.30). Weston-super-Mare v Havant (3.0)

CLUB MATCH: Cardiff v Swansea (2.30)

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Aberavon v Georgia (2.30). Pool B: Llanelli v Blue Bulls (2.30)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Abertillery v Tondu (2.30); Blackwood v Rumney (2.30); Dunvant v Bonymaen (2.30); Llandovery v South Wales Police (2.30). Maesteg v Newbridge (2.30), Pontypool v UWIC (2.30). Tredegar v Cross Keys (2.30); Treorchy v Merthyr (2.30).

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP: Fifth round: Glasgow Hawks v Kelso. Hawick v Boroughmuir; Heriot's FP v Perthshire; Kilmarnock v Musselburgh; Langholm v Gala, Preston Lodge v Peebles; Stewartry v Kirkcaldy, Watsonians v Melrose

TENNENT'S VELVET BOWL: Second round: Cumbernauld v Dumfries, Edinburgh Univ v Paisley; Forrester FP v Duns; Highland v Garnock; Hillfoots v Moray; RAF Kinloss v Strathendrick. Wigtownshire v Corstorphine. First round: Hamilton Acads v Whitecraigs.

TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD: Second round: Annan v Ross High, Berwick v Lenzie, Glasgow Southern v Gordonians, Irvine v Hawick Linden; Jed-Forest v Dunfermline, Selkirk v Howe of Fife; St Boswells v Glenrothes; Stirling County v Stewart's Mel FP.

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: Third division: East Kilbride v Grangemouth (2.0).

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Terenure (2.30), Blackrock College v Clontarf (2.30); Buccaneers v St Marys (2.30); Garryowen v Cork Constitution (2.30). Lansdowne v Galwegians (2.30). Second division: Ballynahinch v Malone (2.30); Bective Rangers v Old Crescent (2.30); Dolphin v Wanderers (2.30); Dungannon v Derry (2.30); Old Belvedere v DLSP (2.30), Skerries v Portadown (2.30).

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final: Ulster v Stade Français (1.0).

HOCKEY

EHA CUP: Fourth round: Cannock v Harrogate (1.0).

ENGLISH INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary national round (at Glades, Kidderminster and Cocks Moors Woods, 11.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Worthing Bears (7.30). Uni-ball Trophy: Group A: Derby Storm v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30); Manchester Giants v Chester Jets (7.0). Group B: Greater London Leopards v London Towers (7.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v London Knights (7.0).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester Utd v West Ham (4.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Crystal Palace (1.0).

RUGBY UNION

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fourth round: Bedford v Henley (3.0); Bristol v London Irish (3.0). Kendal v London Scottish (2.15); Morley v Saracens (3.0); Richmond v Newbury (3.0). West Hartlepool v Bracknell (3.0).

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Pontypridd v Edinburgh Reivers (2.30). Pool B: Ebbw Vale v Glasgow Caledonians (2.30); Newport v Gauteng Falcons (2.30).

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Young Munster v Shannon (2.30). Second division: Old Wesley v Greystones (2.30); UCC v Sunday's Well (2.30).

HOCKEY

EHA CUP: Fourth round: Bowdon v Loughborough Students (2.0); Hounslow v Norton (12.30).

ENGLISH INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary national round (at Glades, Kidderminster and Cocks Moors Woods, 10.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup: Final: Sheffield Sharks v Greater London Leopards (at Sheffield Arena, 2.30). Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Leicester Riders (5.30); Edinburgh Rocks v Manchester Giants (5.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Cardiff Devils (6.30); Bracknell Bees v Nottingham Panthers (6.0); Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (6.0); Newcastle Riverkings v London Knights (6.30).

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Gloucester 23 Bath 7

Gloucester: Tries: Catling 2, Fanolua. Con: Mapletoft. Pens: Mapletoft 2. Bath: Try: Adebayo. Con: Callard. Att: 10,800.

London Irish 16 Newcastle 14

London Irish: Try: Bishop. Con: Cunningham. Pens: Cunningham 3. Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong, Tuigamala. Cons: Wilkinson 2. Att: 5,200

London Scot 24 Harlequins 35

London Scottish: Tries: Hunter, Milligan. Con: Forrest. Pens: I McAusland 3, Forrest. Harlequins: Tries: Brooke, Halpin, Harries. Con: Schuster. Pens: Schuster 6. Att: 4,600.

Sale 24 Northampton 39

Sale: Tries: Hanley 2, Mackinnon, Moore. Cons: Howarth 2. Northampton: Tries: Lam 3, M Allen, D Malone. Cons: Grayson 4. Pens: Grayson 2. Att: 4,300.

Saracens 44 Bedford 13

Saracens: Tries: Grewcock 2, Daniel, Johns, Olsen, R Wallace. Cons: Johnson 4. Pens: Johnson 2. Bedford: Try: Paramore. Con: Yapp. Pens: Yapp 2. Att: 6,593.

W Hartlepool 21 Wasps 17

West Hartlepool: Tries: Handley, Ponton. Con: Vile. Pens: Vile 2. Dropped goal: Farrell. Wasps: Tries: Alexopoulos, Greenstock, Scrivener. Con: Logan. Att: 1,000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	14	11	0	3	423	238	22
Northampton	14	11	0	3	401	296	22
Saracens	15	10	0	5	461	320	20
Wasps	15	9	0	6	430	299	18
Harlequins	14	9	0	5	373	349	18
Newcastle	14	8	0	6	380	329	16
Gloucester	15	8	0	7	322	317	16
London Irish	15	8	0	7	361	381	16
Bath	14	7	0	7	349	287	14
Richmond	13	7	0	6	340	351	14
Sale	15	5	0	10	346	436	10
London Scot	14	4	0	10	262	362	8
Bedford	15	2	0	13	307	482	4
W Hartlepool	15	2	0	13	226	566	4

LEADING SCORERS: 236: J Schuster (Harlequins, 3 tries, 20 conversions, 60 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 193: G Johnson (Saracens; 7t, 34c, 30pg). 186: K Logan (Wasps; 6t, 24c, 36pg). 160: J Stransky (Leicester; 5t, 30c, 25pg). 161: M Catt (Bath; 1t, 22c, 34pg). 150: J Wilkinson (Newcastle; 4t, 29c, 24pg). 149: N Woods (London Irish; 6t, 17c, 27pg). 125: S Howarth (Sale, 4t, 24c, 19pg). 118: S Howard (Bedford, 3t, 23c, 19pg). 118: M Mapletoft (Gloucester, 4t, 12c, 23pg, 1dg). Tries: 9: N Back (Leicester), J Guscott (Bath). 8: P Lamb (Northampton), B Daniel (Saracens). 7: G Armstrong (Newcastle), C Catling (Gloucester), D Luger (Harlequins), D O'Mahony (Bedford), T Underwood (Newcastle), Johnson.

Second division

Coventry 27 Leeds 33

Coventry: Tries: Mafi 2, penalty try. Cons: Gough 3. Pens: Gough 2. Leeds: Tries: Sailor, Severinutto. Cons: Tuipulotu. Pens: Tuipulotu 7.

Exeter 16 London Welsh 17

Exeter: Try: Woodman. Con: B Easson. Pens: B Easson 3. London Welsh: Tries: Storey, Woodward. Cons: Lee 2. Pen: Lee.

Fylde 6 Rugby 14

Fylde: Pens: Peacock 2. Rugby: Try: Saunders. Pens: M Davies 3. Att: 800.

Moseley 6 Bristol 43

Moseley: Pens: S Jones 2. Bristol: Tries: Larkin 2, Misson 2, Baber, Marsden, Martin. Cons: Hull 3, Martin.

Wakefield 13 Rotherham 40

Wakefield: Try: P White. Con: Dixon. Pens: Dixon 2. Rotherham: Tries: Walker 2, Austin, Schmid, Scully, Wade. Cons: Niarchos 2. Pens: Niarchos 2.

Waterloo 31 Blackheath 25

Waterloo: Tries: Holt, Wands, Woof. Cons: L Griffiths 2. Pens: L Griffiths 3. Dropped goal: Handley. Blackheath: Tries: D Fitzgerald, M Griffiths, Sangster, T Smith. Con: Braithwaite. Pen: Braithwaite.

Worcester 17 Orrell 0

Worcester: Try: McLaughlin. Pens: J Liley 4. Att: 2,336.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	14	12	0	2	441	188	24
Worcester	14	12	0	2	341	186	22
Rotherham	13	9	0	4	321	161	18
London Welsh	14	9	0	5	325	314	18
Waterloo	14	9	0	5	287	277	18
Leeds	14	8	0	6	334	194	16
Coventry	14	8	0	6	368	296	16
Exeter	14	7	1	6	304	323	15
Rugby	14	7	0	7	223	284	14
Orrell	14	6	0	8	266	209	12
Moseley	14	5	0	9	275	354	10
Wakefield	14	2	0	12	229	443	4
Fylde	13	1	1	11	171	401	3
Blackheath	14	1	0	13	173	431	2

LEADING SCORERS: 174: S Gough (Coventry; 6 tries, 30 conversions, 28 penalty goals). 171: S Tuipulotu (Leeds, 3t, 21c, 38pg). 148: L Griffiths (Waterloo; 2t, 17c, 35pg). 134: B Easson (Exeter, 1t, 18c, 31pg). 102: P Hull (Bristol, 3t, 21c, 15pg). 98: J Liley (Worcester; 7c, 28pg). 90: M Davies (Rugby; 12c, 22pg). Tries: 12: A Larkin (Bristol). 8: G Austin (Rotherham). 7: B Wade (Rotherham). 6: A Currier (London Welsh), J Fabian (Exeter), Gough, M Misson (Bristol).

Jewson National League

First division

Camberley 26 Reading 18

Camberley: Tries: Green 2, Smith. Con: G Gregory. Pens: G Gregory 3. Reading: Tries: Sparks 2, Barratt. Pen: Dance.

Harrogate 16 Newbury 44

Harrogate: Try: Wheat. Con: Yates. Pens: Yates 3. Newbury: Tries: Griffiths 4, Holloway 3, Howe. Cons: Pothpol 2.

Henley 5 Otley 0

Henley: Try: Sampson.

Manchester 42 B'ham/Solihull 0

Manchester: Tries: Ellis 3, Fowler, penalty try. Cons: Swindells 4. Pens: Swindells 3

Morley 13 Lydney 13

Morley: Tries: Barker, Standeven. Pen: Bamber. Lydney: Try: Price. Con: Paisley. Pens: Paisley 2.

Nottingham 21 Rosslyn Park 9

Nottingham: Tries: Knight, Lloyd. Con: C Atkinson. Pens: C Atkinson 2, Jack. Rosslyn Park: Pens: A Maddock 3.

Wharfedale 59 Liverpool St H 0

Wharfedale: Tries: Allen, Buckroyd, G Harrison, D Harrison, Hodgson, Lancaster, Lawn, Metcalfe, Charles Vyvyan. Cons: Peers 7.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	16	14	0	2	492	216	28
Henley	16	14	0	2	384	171	28
Otley	16	10	0	6	289	224	20
Lydney	16	8	1	7	291	260	17
Camberley	16	8	1	7	330	387	17
Wharfedale	16	8	0	8	297	233	16
Rosslyn Park	15	8	0	7	305	244	16
Newbury	16	8	0	8	276	257	16
Reading	16	8	0	8	339	342	16
Nottingham	15	7	0	8	279	267	14
B'ham/Solihull	16	6	0	10	287	31[illegible]	12
Harrogate	16	4	1	11	176	30[illegible]	9
Morley	15	4	1	10	225	35[illegible]	9
Liverpool St H	15	1	0	14	170	54[illegible]	2

LEADING SCORERS: 257: S Swindells (Manchester, 2 tries, 41 conversions, 55 penalty goals). 157: G Gregory (Camberley, 2t, 18c, 36pg, 1 dropped goal). 154: D Peers (Wharfedale, 4t, 16c, 31pg, 3dg). 147: J Dance (Reading, 1t, 23c, 32pg). 145: C Atkinson (Nottingham, 1t, 16c, 36pg). Tries: 9: D Muckalt (Reading). 8: T Bergon (Manchester), P Davies (Henley), Filipo (Otley), G Sharp (Henley). 7: B Edward (Reading), M Seghton (Liverpool St Helens), B Stafford (Camberley)

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Hinckley 11 Stourbridge 40; Kendal 37 Winnington Park 3; Lichfield 20 Aspatria 27; Preston Grasshoppers 30 Nuneaton 16; Sandal 19 New Brighton 12; Sedgley Park 35 Sheffield 8; Whitchurch 18 Walsall 33. Second division south: Bridgwater 14 Esher 18; Havant 0 Clifton 6; Met Police 12 Barking 31; Norwich 35 Plymouth 5; Redruth 35 Cheltenham 12; Tabard 17 North Walsham 27; Weston-super-Mare 10 Bracknell 20

NPI CUP: Fifth round: North: Aspull 10 Vale of Lune 33, Aylesbury 0 Old Laurentians 25; Darlington 15 Dudley Kingswinford 16, Derby 11 Penrith 21, Driffield 7 Northern 10; Hereford 15 Ilkeston 8; South: Leicester 10 Aldwinians 16; Stoke-on-Trent 11 West Park St Helens 21. South: Barnstaple 15 Gloucester Old Boys 3; Basingstoke 28 Thanet Wanderers 20; Bishop's Stortford 30 Dorking 6; Camborne 18 Harpenden 9; Cinderford 38 Old Patesians 6; Cranbrook 11 Dean's Crusaders 23; Gosport and Fareham 6 Sevenoaks 3; Maidstone 23 Woodford 13.

SWALEC Cup

Fourth round

Group I

Carmarthen 17 Bedwas 21

Carmarthen: Tries: Curtis, Fisk, John. Con: Jones. Bedwas: Tries: Ge[illegible], Phillips, Tomlin. Cons: Scrivens 3.

Welsh League

Premier division

Aberavon 21 Pontypridd 49

Aberavon: Tries: Hamilton, Neil, Shenton. Cons: C Rees 3. Pontypridd: Tries: Shorney 2, Geraint Lewis, Lloyd, Morgan, Rosser, Williams. Cons: Wyatt 4. Pens: Wyatt.

Bridgend 17 Neath 20

Bridgend: Tries: Pearce, W[illegible]. Cons: Cull 2. Pen: Bowen. Neath: Tries: Case, Tiatia, Van Rensburg. Con: Case. Pen: Case.

Llanelli 62 Caerphilly 7

Llanelli: Tries: Wyatt 3, D Williams 2, Finau, D Morris, Quinnell, Rogers, Voyle. Cons: S Jones 6. Caerphilly: Try: Bray. Con: Davey.

Newport 30 Ebbw Vale 29

Newport: Tries: Llewellyn, Mock, Nicholls. Cons: Connor 3. Pens: Connor 2. Dropped goal: Connor. Ebbw Vale: Tries: Llewellyn, Olsen. Cons: Strange 2. Pens: Strange 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A T	B	Pts
Llanelli	9	7	0	2	353	1647	9	30
Pontypridd	9	7	0	2	348	1644	7	28
Ebbw Vale	9	6	0	3	241	1927	3	21
Neath	9	5	0	4	228	2028	4	19
Caerphilly	10	4	1	5	219	3124	1	14
Newport	9	3	0	6	221	2928	5	14
Bridgend	9	3	1	5	198	2222	2	12
Aberavon	10	1	0	9	159	4120	1	4

First division

Bonymaen 20 Tredegar 0

Bonymaen: Tries: C Lewis, [illegible]y, Young. Con: S Davies. Pen: S Davies.

Maesteg 10 Abertillery 23

Maesteg: Tries: L Jones, A Lewis. Abertillery: Tries: Green, Howells, Sidney. Con: Withers. Pens: Withers 2.

Merthyr 24 Dunvant 19

Merthyr: Tries: Jenkins 2, Morgan 2. Cons: J Lloyd 2. Dunvant: Tries: Evans, Killa, L Williams. Cons: M Thomas 2.

Newbridge 11 Rumney 14

Newbridge: Try: Addis. Pens: Williams 2. Rumney: Tries: Davies, Ryan. Cons: Davies 2.

Tondu 10 Treorchy 37

Tondu: Tries: K Hocking, [illegible]s. Treorchy: Tries: Martin 2, P Jones, [illegible]ps, Roberts, Williams. Cons: D Evans 2. Pen: D Evans.

POSTPONED: UWIC v Llandovery; Cross Keys v Pontypool; South Wales Police v Blackwood.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	16	13	0	3	[illegible]	253	83	14	53
Bonymaen	16	12	1	3	[illegible]	204	55	10	47
Cross Keys	15	11	0	4	[illegible]	232	46	5	38
Pontypool	15	11	0	4	[illegible]	265	46	5	38
Merthyr	16	10	1	5	[illegible]	262	44	3	34
Treorchy	15	9	0	6	[illegible]	243	50	7	34
Llandovery	16	8	1	6	[illegible]	326	53	4	32

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Cardiff 29 Leicester 13

Cardiff: Tries: Howley 2, Morgan, Sullivan. Cons: Jarvis 3. Pen: Jarvis. Leicester: Try: Freshwater. Con: Stimpson. Pen: Stimpson. Dropped goal: Goode.

Swansea 57 Richmond 3

Swansea: Tries: Jenkins, B Jones 2, Arnold, Charvis, Gibbs, L Jones, Lawson. Cons: Back 8. Richmond: Pen: Butland.

Tennent's Velvet Series

Edinburgh R 33 Glasgow Cal 3

Edinburgh Reivers: Tries: Hodge, Kerr, Mather. Cons: Hodge 3. Pens: Hodge 4. Glasgow Caledonians: Pen: Smith.

BANK OF SCOTLAND BORDER LEAGUE: Jed-Forest 5 Gala 25. Postponed: Melrose v Selkirk.

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Clontarf 1[illegible] Ballymena 40; Cork Constitution 25 Blackrock Coll 17; Galwegians 3 Young Munster 6; St Marys 18 Garryowen 7; Terenure 14 Lansdowne 7. Postponed: Shannon v Buccaneers.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballymena	3	3	0	0	36	33	6
Lansdowne	4	3	[illegible]	1	36	44	6
Garryowen	3	2	[illegible]	1	75	33	4
Blackrock Coll	4	2	[illegible]	2	19	77	4
St Marys	4	2	[illegible]	2	2	65	4
Buccaneers	3	2	[illegible]	1	8	64	4
Young Munster	3	2	[illegible]	1	8	45	4

SECOND DIVISION: DLSP 18 Dungannon 20; Derry 10 UCC 15; Greystones 11 Dolphin 6; Malone 22 Skerries 6; Old Crescent 23 Old Wesley 0; Portadown 3 Ballynahinch 23; Sunday's Well 6 Bective Rangers 9. Postponed: Wanderers v Old Belvedere.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Castres 22 Stade Français 17; Toulon 29 Bourgoin 19; Nîmes 14 Narbonne 41; Aurillac 13 Biarritz 24. Pool two: Béziers 12 Montferrand 19; Nice 6 Pau [illegible] 32; Dax 33 Auch 17; Agen 21 Bègles-Bordeaux 11. Pool three: Colomiers 8 Brive 23; Périgueux 25 La Rochelle [illegible]; Grenoble 24 Toulouse 32; Racing CF [illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

RACING: DUBAI STABLE BROADENS HORIZONS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

Godolphin recruits Argentine star

By Chris McGrath

THE pioneers of Godolphin venture across yet another new frontier this week by welcoming their most exotic recruit. Lignify, a top middle-distance horse in Argentina, was yesterday confirmed to be on her way to join Sheikh Mohammed's team in Dubai. After a year of marvellous international achievement in 1998, Godolphin has begun the new year emboldened in its determination to make all the racing world its stage.

The retirement to stud of Swain, a colossus who truly bestrode that stage, would awaken even the most complacent of bloodstock superpowers to the need for reinforcement. A hallmark of the Godolphin revolution, however, has always been its restless ambition.

The arrival of Lignify serves not only to enhance its uniquely cosmopolitan complexion, after the purchase in the autumn of two leading juveniles in the United States. It also testifies to the imagination and boldness that continue to inspire the whole enterprise.

Gentlemen, who emerged from Brazil to become one of the top older horses in the United States over the last two years, offered evidence of the potential riches lurking in a largely untapped seam of thoroughbreds in South America. Lignify, a daughter of Confidential Talk foaled in 1994, was second in the Argentinian Oaks before last year winning a group two event over ten furlongs and a group one over a mile and a half.

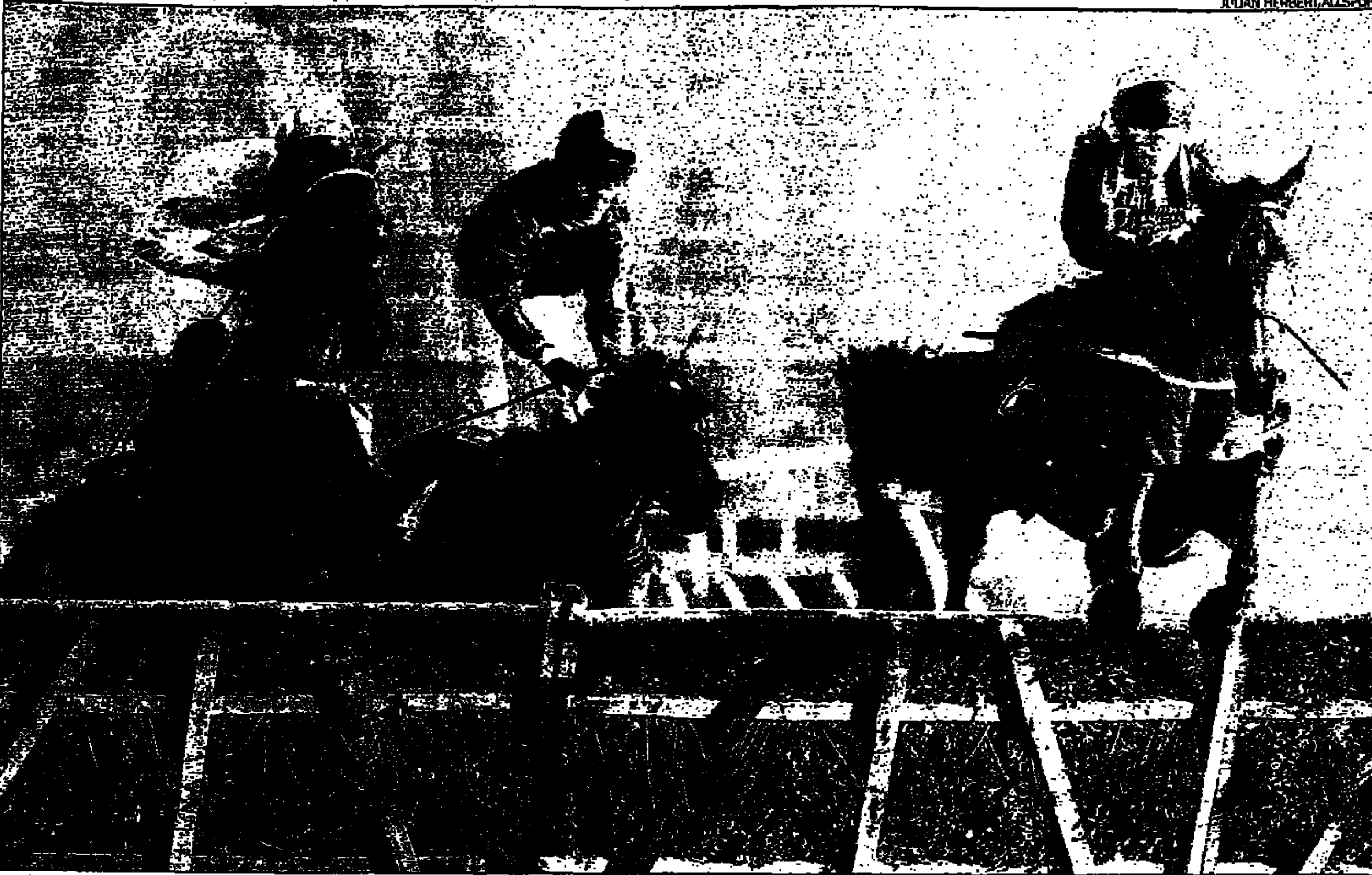
Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, disclosed yesterday that Lignify could be another card shuffled by the "home team" in the fourth Dubai World Cup on March 28 (others include High-Rise, Xaar and Limpid).

"Obviously, we'll give her time to acclimatise, but we want to run her out here," Crisford said. "She will be entered in the World Cup and pointed towards the race — we'll just have to see how she shapes up. There are other races, such as the Dubai Duty Free, that she could go for. Then she will either go to Europe or North America. She looks a nice filly and horses in Argentina tend to stand plenty of racing. Obviously, she has shown herself a top performer over there: the question is whether she can make the transition."

Crisford identifies Lignify as the latest chapter in the evolution of Godolphin as a global force. "We want to be recognised as an international stable," he said. "It's just as important for us to have runners in Japan, Hong Kong and North America as it is in Europe and in the big races in England. Though we're based in England in the summer, we regard ourselves not as an English stable but very much as a Dubai stable."

That the fulcrum is Dubai, rather than the senior squad's summer home at Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket, will be increasingly evident this year, with David Loder freshly installed at Evry in France to train a big team of juveniles for Godolphin. The two American recruits, Worldly Manner and Comeonmom, could meanwhile be prepared for the Kentucky Derby. Comeonmom recorded the fastest time in 12 years when winning the Aqueduct race used as a stepping stone by two recent Derby winners. For British punters, however, there may be an even more interesting filly than Lignify joining Saeed bin Suroor. It is understood that Godolphin is in the process of purchasing Kilting, impressive winner of a Doncaster maiden in October, from Khaled Abdulla.

By Nashwan, Kilting is from the same family as Sanglamore and should have plenty of stamina, but she managed to accelerate four lengths clear of 15 rivals over seven furlongs at Town Moor. Barry Hills will rue her loss as she looks to have the potential to enter calculations for the Vodafone Oaks.



JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

King's Road, right, lands the middle leg of a hurdling treble for trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies and jockey Carl Llewellyn at Newbury on Saturday

Carberry loses ground with ten-day ban

By Chris McGrath

PAUL CARBERRY will lose vital ground in his Irish championship duel with Ruby Walsh after a humiliating blunder at Naas yesterday. Carberry has ridden some amazing races this season but none quite like the one he rode on the front-running Sallie's Girl in the New Stand Design Team Slaney Novice Hurdle — standing like a statue in his irons as Conor O'Dwyer drove Glazeaway past to win by three-quarters of a length.

He was shouting at O'Dwyer, warning his colleague that they still had a circuit to go, but it was Carberry himself who was making the almighty gaffe.

He was suspended for ten Irish racing days, starting on January 14, meaning that he can next ride in Ireland on February 6, eve of the Hennessy Gold Cup meeting at Leopardstown. He was also ordered to forfeit his riding fee, doubtless because his performance had been too sedentary to be considered "riding".

Yet the race had an even worse postscript for the Francis Floods, senior and junior, respectively trainer and jockey of To Your Honour. Sent off favourite to add to last week's Leopardstown success, this leading fancy for the Royal & SunAlliance Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival slipped up approaching two out.

He left the battlefield with blood running from his nose and was last night being examined for suspected rib fracture. "He will have to recover very quickly to get to Cheltenham," Flood senior said. "He could be out for the rest of the season."



Carberry: suspended

Basking in the lordly soubriquet of "the Duke", the least that David Nicholson might expect is to be succeeded by a King. That scenario appears one step closer with news that Alan King, his assistant, will be entrusted with training three or four Flat horses from Jackdaws Castle next summer. Colin Smith, Nicholson's landlord, reportedly considers this "the first step in grooming Alan to be handed the day-to-day running when Nicholson decides to leave".

Though Nicholson's own future at Smith's lavish training centre became subject of speculation during last week's painful soap opera, which ended with Adrian Maguire no longer retained as stable jockey, he has protested that he is good "for another two or three years". As he also expects a back-seat role thereafter, the candidature of King has natural advantages over that of any trainers who have proved themselves elsewhere.

Newbury off as casualties mount

THE meeting at Newbury today has been abandoned. Heavy overnight rain and the forecast of more to come forced officials to call off the fixture yesterday. Richard Pridham, the clerk of the course, said: "We had 12mm of rain overnight, there is a huge amount coming down now and there is more forecast, so it was hopeless."

Newton Abbot's fixture tomorrow has also been abandoned. Michael Trickey, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "We've had 1½ inches of rain overnight and the course is waterlogged. It's impossible to race, so we have decided to abandon early."

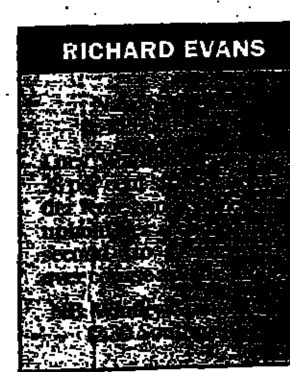
Newton Abbot's fixture for Boxing Day also fell to the wet spell and Trickey added: "In 1998, we had ten inches above the average rainfall and 21 inches in the last 11 weeks. All our drains are full and the water has nowhere to drain."

Newton Abbot is the twelfth jumps meeting this season to be lost to the weather.

Two horses had a lucky escape yesterday when a storm hit Robert Alner's Blandford Forum stable. The pair were out exercising when their boxes were damaged by the high winds besetting Dorset.

Alner's wife, Sally, said: "We have had a terrible storm. It has been a nightmare, but it's a case of fate playing its part. The roofs were ripped off two boxes but, fortunately, the horses were out exercising at the time. We have had to put them with friends while we sort out the damage."

Meanwhile, Mrs Alner reported that out-of-form Cool Dawn will be put in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, which he won last year, when entries close on Wednesday.



THUNDERER

12.40 The Flying Doctor
1.10 See Enough
1.40 Saleel
2.10 Rockforce
2.40 Capsoff
3.10 FIRST INSTANCE (nap)
3.40 Topanga

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.40 DISTANT STORM.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 DAN SWINDEN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,576: 2m 6f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 3PPP34 THE FLYING DOCTOR 18 (G,S) (Galloping Punters) P Bowen 9-11-10 W Marston 62
2 32-308 REPEAT OFFER 30 (BF,S) (Mrs L Jewell) Mrs L Jewell 7-10-13 A Maguire 72
3 4514-F DAUPHIN BLEU 44 (F,G,S) (D Roberts) P Eccles 13-10-13 Miss V Roberts (7) —
4 603352 WESTERN CHIEF 9 (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 5-10-8 Mr R Forristal (5) [illegible]
5 06-508 SIMPLY 18 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Irvine) Miss Z Davison 10-10-8 Mr A Irvine (7) 64
6 /P/P-0 GREENSIDE CHAT 20 (Luke Dace) L A Dace 9-10-0 L Aspell 41

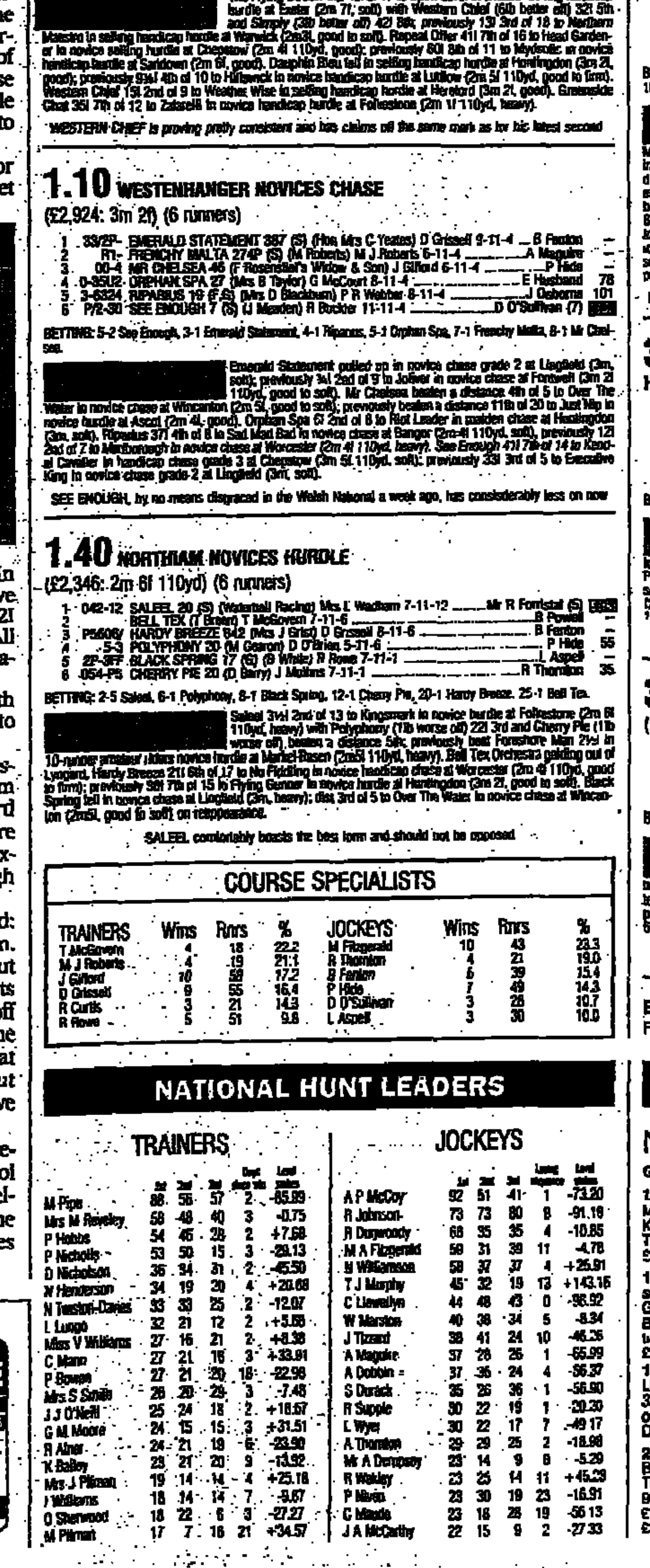
Long handicap: Greenside Chat 9-12.

BETTING: 2-1 The Flying Doctor, 5-2 Western Chief, 3-1 Repeat Offer, 8-1 Dauphin Bleu, 10-1 Simply, 14-1 Greenside Chat.

1998: MEETING ABANDONED — COURSE WATERLOGGED

The Flying Doctor 32l 4th of 17 to Spirit Level in amateur selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 7f, soft) with Western Chief (6lb better off) 32l 5th and Simply (3lb better off) 42l 8th; previously 13l 3rd of 18 to Northern Maestro in selling handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to soft). Repeat Offer 41l 7th of 16 to Head Gardener in novice selling hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 60l 8th of 11 to Mydsolic in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). Dauphin Bleu fell in selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good); previously 9¾l 4th of 10 to Hillswick in novice handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). Western Chief 15l 2nd of 9 to Weather Wise in selling handicap hurdle at Hereford (3m 2f, good). Greenside Chat 35l 7th of 12 to Zaisel in novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy).

WESTERN CHIEF is proving pretty consistent and has claims off the same mark as for his latest second



1.10 WESTENHANGER NOVICES CHASE
(£2,924: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

1 33/2P- EMERALD STATEMENT 387 (S) (Hon Mrs C Yeates) D Grissell 9-11-4 B Fenton —
2 R1- FRENCHY MALTA 274P (S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 6-11-4 A Maguire —
3 00-4 MR CHELSEA 46 (F Rosenstiel's Widow & Son) J Gifford 6-11-4 P Hide —
4 0-35U2 ORPHAN SPA 27 (Mrs B Taylor) G McCourt 8-11-4 E Husband 78
5 3-6324 RIPARIUS 19 (F,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) P R Webber 8-11-4 J Osborne 101
6 P/2-30 SEE ENOUGH 7 (S) (J Mearden) R Buckler 11-11-4 D O'Sullivan (7) [illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 See Enough, 3-1 Emerald Statement, 4-1 Riparius, 5-1 Orphan Spa, 7-1 Frenchy Malta, 8-1 Mr Chelsea.

Emerald Statement pulled up in novice chase grade 2 at Lingfield (3m, soft); previously 3¼l 2nd of 9 to Jolver in novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Mr Chelsea beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Over The Water in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft); previously beaten a distance 11th of 20 to Just Nip in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). Orphan Spa 6l 2nd of 8 to Riot Leader in maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, soft). Riparius 37l 4th of 8 to Sad Mad Bad in novice chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, soft), previously 12l 2nd of 7 to Marlborough in novice chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). See Enough 41l 7th of 14 to Kendal Cavalier in handicap chase grade 3 at Chepstow (3m 5f 110yd, soft); previously 33l 3rd of 5 to Executive King in novice chase grade 2 at Lingfield (3m, soft).

SEE ENOUGH, by no means disgraced in the Welsh National a week ago, has considerably less on now

1.40 NORTHIAM NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,346: 2m 6f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 042-12 SALEEL 20 (S) (Waterhall Racing) Mrs L Wadham 7-11-12 Mr R Forristal (5) [illegible]
2 BELL TEX (T Breen) T McGovern 7-11-6 B Powell —
3 P5606/ HARDY BREEZE 842 (Mrs J Grist) D Grissell 8-11-6 B Fenton —
4 5-3 POLYPHONY 20 (M Gearon) D O'Brien 5-11-6 P Hide 55
5 2P-3FF BLACK SPRING 17 (G) (B White) R Rowe 7-11-1 L Aspell —
6 054-P5 CHERRY PIE 20 (D Barry) J Mullins 7-11-1 R Thornton 35

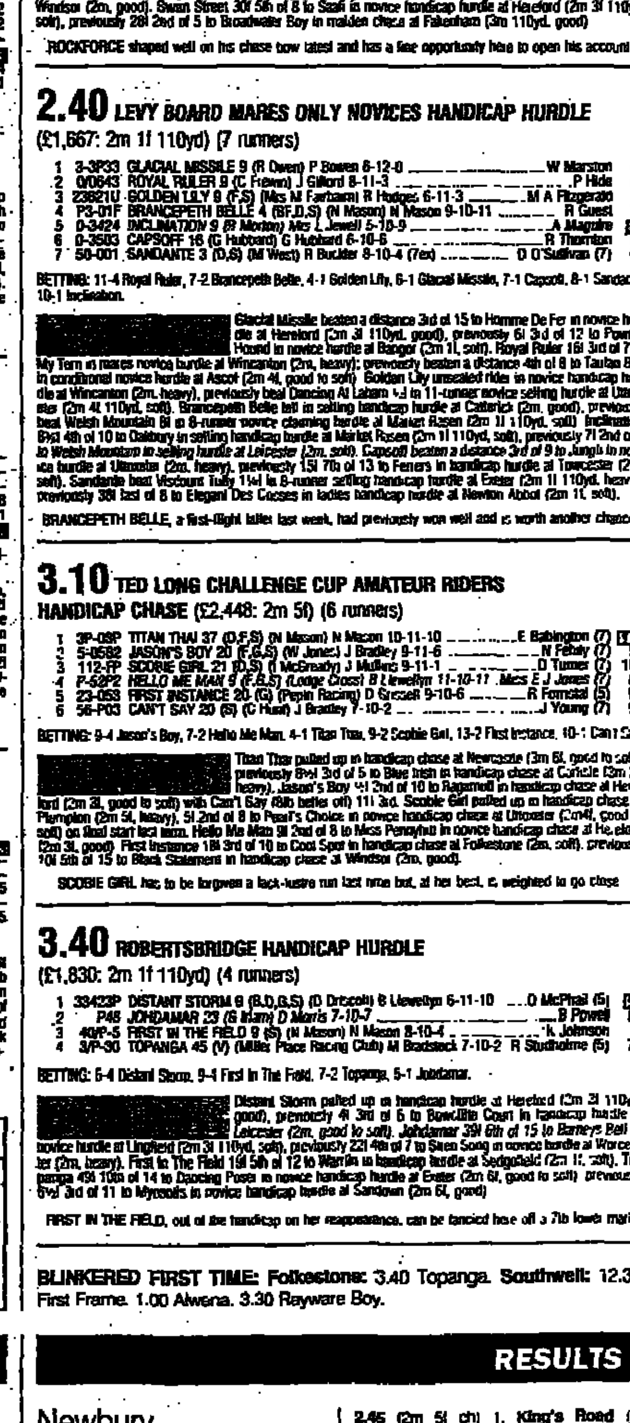
BETTING: 2-5 Saleel, 6-1 Polyphony, 8-1 Black Spring, 12-1 Cherry Pie, 20-1 Hardy Breeze, 25-1 Bell Tex.

Saleel 3½l 2nd of 13 to Kingsmark in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy) with Polyphony (11lb worse off) 22l 3rd and Cherry Pie (11lb worse off) beaten a distance 5th; previously beat Foreshore Man 2½l in 10-runner amateur riders novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, heavy). Bell Tex Orchestra gelding out of Lyngard. Hardy Breeze 21l 6th of 17 to No Fiddling in novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm); previously 58l 7th of 15 to Flying Gunner in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft). Black Spring fell in novice chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy); dist 3rd of 5 to Over The Water in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft) on reappearance.

SALEEL comfortably boasts the best form and should not be opposed

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
T McGovern	4	18	22.2	M Fitzgerald	10	43	23.3
M J Roberts	4	19	21.1	R Thornton	4	21	19.0
J Gifford	10	58	17.2	B Fenton	6	39	15.4
D Grissell	9	55	16.4	P Hide	7	49	14.3
R Curtis	3	21	14.3	D O'Sullivan	3	28	10.7
R Rowe	5	51	9.8	L Aspell	3	30	10.0



2.10 LANGHORNE GARDEN HOTEL MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,028: 2m) (9 runners)

1 655-60 BRASSIS HILL 51 (D,G) (Sleeping Partnership) R Rowe 8-11-8 B Fenton —
2 52-5P0 DAMIEN'S CHOICE 19 (M Sawers) P Eccles 7-11-8 Mr N Fehily (7) —
3 63/2/ EMPEROR'S MAGIC 587 (N Mason) N Mason 8-11-8 K Johnson —
4 1/P/P- GALLANT LORD 478 (G) (P Allen) Mrs L Jewell 10-11-8 B Powell —
5 /262-2 MR PIPE MAN 88 (S) (Pied Pipers) R Curtis 10-11-8 J Leach 64
6 402 ROCKFORCE 24 (G Mizel) P Nicholls 7-11-8 J Tizzard [illegible]
7 -0P000 SMART GUY 20 (Mrs P Doolan) Mrs L Jewell 7-11-8 T Peoples (7) —
8 58425- SWAN STREET 266 (Swan Street Partnership) E L James 8-11-8 J R Kavanagh 65
9 00-PF ROYAL CEILIDH 25 (G Farr) D Williams 6-11-3 B Clifford —

BETTING: 4-6 Rockforce, 2-1 Mr Pipe Man, 12-1 Emperor's Magic, 25-1 Brassis Hill, Damien's Choice, Swan Street, 33-1 Gallant Lord, Royal Ceilidh, 50-1 Smart Guy

Brassis Hill beaten a distance 9th of 13 to Lotschberg Express in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to soft); previously 15l 5th of 16 to Spick And Span in novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to firm). Damien's Choice 51l 9th of 16 to Russian Aspect in novice handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Emperor's Magic 7l 2nd of 6 to Pappa Charlie in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Mr Pipe Man 9l 2nd of 5 to Silent Cracker in novice chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, firm). Rockforce ¾l 2nd of 4 to Amlwch in maiden chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good), previously 27l 8th of 12 to High Invader in novice hurdle grade 2 at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). Smart Guy 55l last of 12 to Zafarelli in novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 63l 8th of 9 to Antiguan Flyer in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Swan Street 30l 5th of 8 to Saafi in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 28l 2nd of 5 to Broadwater Boy in maiden chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good)

ROCKFORCE shaped well on his chase bow latest and has a fine opportunity here to open his account

2.40 LEVY BOARD MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,667: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 3-3P33 GLACIAL MISSILE 9 (R Owen) P Bowen 6-12-0 W Marston 45
2 0/0643 ROYAL RULER 9 (C Frewin) J Gifford 8-11-3 P Hide 60
3 23621U GOLDEN LILY 9 (F,S) (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 6-11-3 M A Fitzgerald 79
4 P3-01F BRANCEPETH BELLE 4 (BF,D,S) (N Mason) N Mason 9-10-11 R Guest 70
5 0-3424 INCLINATION 9 (R Morton) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-9 A Maguire [illegible]
6 0-3503 CAPSOFF 16 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-10-6 R Thornton 80
7 50-001 SANDANTE 3 (D,S) (M West) R Buckler 8-10-4 (7ex) D O'Sullivan (7) 67

BETTING: 11-4 Royal Ruler, 7-2 Brancepeth Belle, 4-1 Golden Lily, 6-1 Glacial Missile, 7-1 Capsoff, 8-1 Sandante, 10-1 Inclination.

Glacial Missile beaten a distance 3rd of 15 to Homme De Fer in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously 6l 3rd of 12 to Powder Hound in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, soft). Royal Ruler 16l 3rd of 7 to My Tern in mares novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, heavy); previously beaten a distance 4th of 8 to Taufan Boy in conditional novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). Golden Lily unseated rider in novice handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, heavy), previously beat Dancing At Laharn ¾l in 11-runner novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Brancepeth Belle fell in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good), previously beat Welsh Mountain 8l in 8-runner novice claiming hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Inclination 8½l 4th of 10 to Oakbury in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 7l 2nd of 6 to Welsh Mountain in selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). Capsoff beaten a distance 3rd of 9 to Jungli in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy), previously 15l 7th of 13 to Feners in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). Sandante beat Viscount Tully 1¼l in 8-runner selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy), previously 38l last of 8 to Elegant Des Cosses in ladies handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft).

BRANCEPETH BELLE, a first-flight faller last week, had previously won well and is worth another chance



3.10 TED LONG CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,448: 2m 5f) (6 runners)

1 3P-0SP TITAN THAI 37 (D,F,S) (N Mason) N Mason 10-11-10 E Babington (7) [illegible]
2 5-0582 JASON'S BOY 20 (F,G,S) (W Jones) J Bradley 9-11-6 N Fehily (7) 96
3 112-FP SCOBIE GIRL 21 (D,S) (I McGready) J Mullins 9-11-1 D Turner (7) 101
4 P-52P2 HELLO ME MAN 9 (F,G,S) (Lodge Cross) B Llewellyn 11-10-11 Miss E J Jones (7) 68
5 23-053 FIRST INSTANCE 20 (G) (Pepin Racing) D Grissell 9-10-6 R Forristal (5) 92
6 56-P03 CAN'T SAY 20 (S) (C Hunt) J Bradley 7-10-2 J Young (7) 91

BETTING: 9-4 Jason's Boy, 7-2 Hello Me Man, 4-1 Titan Thai, 9-2 Scobie Girl, 13-2 First Instance, 10-1 Can't Say

Titan Thai pulled up in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m 6f, good to soft), previously 8½l 3rd of 5 to Blue Irish in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, heavy). Jason's Boy ½l 2nd of 10 to Ragamuffin in handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good to soft) with Can't Say (8lb better off) 11l 3rd. Scobie Girl pulled up in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy), 5l 2nd of 8 to Pearl's Choice in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good to soft) on final start last term. Hello Me Man 9l 2nd of 8 to Miss Pennyhill in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good). First Instance 18l 3rd of 10 to Cool Spot in handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, soft), previously 10l 5th of 15 to Black Statement in handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good).

SCOBIE GIRL has to be forgiven a lack-lustre run last time but, at her best, is weighted to go close

3.40 ROBERTSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,830: 2m 1f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 33423P DISTANT STORM 9 (B,D,G,S) (D Driscoll) B Llewellyn 6-11-10 O McPhail (5) [illegible]
2 P48 JOHDAMAR 23 (G Islam) D Morris 7-10-7 B Powell 62
3 40/P-5 FIRST IN THE FIELD 9 (S) (N Mason) N Mason 8-10-4 K Johnson —
4 3/P-30 TOPANGA 45 (V) (Millies Place Racing Club) M Bradstock 7-10-2 R Studholme (5) 73

BETTING: 6-4 Distant Storm, 9-4 First In The Field, 7-2 Topanga, 5-1 Johdamar.

Distant Storm pulled up in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously 4l 3rd of 6 to Bowcliffe Court in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Johdamar 39l 6th of 15 to Barneys Bell in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 22l 4th of 7 to Siren Song in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m, heavy). First In The Field 19l 5th of 12 to Warrlin in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, soft). Topanga 49l 10th of 14 to Dancing Poser in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, good to soft), previously 6½l 3rd of 11 to Mycenae in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good)

FIRST IN THE FIELD, out of the handicap on her reappearance, can be fancied here off a 7lb lower mark

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 3.40 Topanga. Southwell: 12.30 First Frame. 1.00 Alwena. 3.30 Rayware Boy.



SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.30 Most Respectful. 1.00 Nocturne. 1.30 Kosevo. 2.00 Mysticism. 2.30 Pipe Music. 3.00 Cyro. 3.30 Sunset Lady.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

12.30 HERTFORDSHIRE CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £1,760: 7f) (14 runners)

101 (13) 000- FIRST FRAME 126 (B) D Shaw 4-9-3 N Pollard (5) 77
102 (2) 410- FLAME TOWER 16 R Hannon 4-9-3 R Smith (7) 70
103 (12) 021- ROYAL CASCADE 33 (B,C) B McMahon 5-9-3 V Halliday 78
104 (6) 032- BARITONE 97 S Kettlewell 5-9-1 R FitzPatrick (5) 69
105 (10) 000- MEZZORAMIO 14 (V,C,D,F) K Morgan 7-8-13 P Fitzsimons (7) 76
106 (3) 426- MOST RESPECTFUL 17 (C,F) N Tinkler 6-8-13 Kim Tinkler 75
107 (7) 400- UNITUS 13J (G) M Chapman 6-8-13 S Righton (7) 72
108 (4) 030- NERVOUS REX 105 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-8-11 P Clarke (7) [illegible]
109 (1) 013- FAYM 19 (D) J Wharton 5-8-8 J Quinn 79
110 (8) 000- FONZY 13 (C,F,G) M Brittain 5-8-8 M Semple (7) —
111 (14) 250- TAILWIND 34 (F) W Muir 5-8-7 Martin Dwyer 77
112 (9) 000- GILDERSLEVE 16 N Berry 4-8-6 N Carlisle 56
113 (5) 050- SING FOR ME 33 R Hollinshead 4-8-4 P M Quinn (7) 85
114 (11) 000- STATELY FAVOUR 34 (C) Miss J A Camacho 4-8-4 L Charnock 78

7-2 Royal Cascade, 9-2 Faym, 5-1 Baritone, 6-1 Flame Tower, 8-1 First Frame, 10-1 Most Respectful, 12-1 Nervous Rex, 14-1 others.

1.00 LEICESTERSHIRE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN APPRENTICES STAKES
(£2,127: 1m 3f) (8)

201 (5) 500- LAA JADEED 42 M Polglase 4-8-13 N Pollard (3) 55
202 (4) 00-6 THE SILK THIEF 2 (V) J Jenkins 4-8-13 G Hannon (5) —
203 (8) 000- BLUE HOPPER 30J M Quinn 5-8-11 Emily Joyce (7) 60
204 (7) 005- ALWENA 17 (V,BF) S C Williams 4-8-8 D Williams (5) 31
205 (2) /00- LADY OF GUADALOPE 103 D Cosgrove 4-8-8 P Fitzsimons (5) —
206 (3) 060- LITTLE IMP 146 (B) K Burke 4-8-8 P Doe (3) 41
207 (1) 223- NOCTURNE 21J S Kettlewell 4-8-8 R FitzPatrick (3) [illegible]
208 (6) 05-6 SANTARENE 3 P Howling 4-8-8 G Faulkner 60

4-9 Nocturne, 3-1 Alwena, 14-1 Santarene, 20-1 Laa Jadeed, 25-1 Blue Hopper, Lady Of Guadalope, 33-1 The Silk Thief, 50-1 Little Imp

1.30 HERTFORDSHIRE CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £1,760: 7f) (13)

301 (5) 000- KOMASEPH 16 (C) R Marvin 7-9-3 T G McLaughlin 68
302 (3) 000- BLUSHING GRENADIER 34 (B,F,G,S) S Bowring 7-8-13 C Teague (3) 89
303 (2) 011- C-HARRY 19 (D,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-13 D Sweeney 81
304 (8) 260- KOSEVO 13 (V,C,D) D Shaw 5-8-13 N Pollard (5) 79
305 (6) 000- LOBUCHE 83 (S) M Chapman 4-8-11 S Righton (7) 88
306 (13) 000- BEAU VIENNA 42 (B) A Dicken 4-8-10 Dean McKeown 35
307 (7) 006- DESERT INVADER 97 (C,D,S) D Chapman 8-8-8 A Culhane [illegible]
308 (10) 060- THE BARNSLEY BELLE 17 (C,D) G Woodward 6-8-8 L Newton 71
309 (9) 000- MAI TAI 30 D Barker 4-8-6 T Williams 80
310 (1) 250- MAYDORO 17 (S) M Dods 6-8-6 Dale Gibson 95
311 (12) 060- MOLLY MUSIC 9 (B,C) G Margarson 5-8-4 J Quinn 69
312 (4) 000- TAKE CARE 13 M Tompkins 4-8-4 G Faulkner (3) —
313 (11) 060/ E B TREASURE 416 N Bycroft 4-8-2 S Drowne —

2-1 C-Harry, 9-2 Desert Invader, 6-1 Kosevo, 8-1 Komaseph, The Barnsley Belle, 12-1 Maydoro, 14-1 Blushing Grenadier, Lobuche, Molly Music, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Carroll, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; M Johnston, 42 from 206, 20.4%; P Haslam, 19 from 113, 16.8%; P Howling, 8 from 53, 15.1%; J Eyre, 40 from 276, 14.5%; W Muir, 15 from 110, 13.6%; J Berry, 26 from 192, 13.5%; D Nicholls, 29 from 216, 13.4%; D Marks, 4 from 30, 13.3%; K Burke, 9 from 79, 11.4%.

JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%; R Cochrane, 17 from 123, 13.8%; R Price, 8 from 58, 13.8%; D Sweeney, 16 from 124, 12.9%; C Lowther, 15 from 120, 12.5%; F Norton, 17 from 165, 10.3%; L Newton, 10 from 98, 10.2%.

2.00 BEDFORDSHIRE FILLIES HANDICAP
(£2,840: 6f) (15)

401 (10) 602- GENERAL KLAIRE 34 (D) B McMahon 4-10-0 R Cochrane 75
402 (13) 061- YANOMAMI 19 (D) J Berry 4-9-12 G Carter 59
403 (15) 454- ELITE HOPE 9 (BF,D,G) N Tinkler 7-9-8 Dean McKeown 76
404 (11) 360- MYSTICISM 215 C Brittain 4-9-8 T Sprake 57
405 (4) 000- CASATI 107 P Felgate 4-9-0 S Righton (7) —
406 (14) 041- DAHLIDYA 13 (CD) M Polglase 4-8-13 P Doe (5) 78
407 (2) 161- HILTONS EXECUTIVE 9 (CD,F) E Alston 5-8-12 J Quinn 75
408 (7) 05-3 INTIAASH 2 (D,F,S) D Haydn Jones 7-8-12 S Whitworth 86
409 (5) 000- HURGILL LADY 223 D Nicholls 5-8-10 M Richardson 65
410 (1) 06-0 SOLO SPIRIT 2 (G) J Jenkins 4-8-7 A Culhane [illegible]
411 (9) 000- LUNAR MUSIC 17 (B,F,G) S Bowring 5-8-3 F Norton 74
412 (3) 063- SCINTILLATING SOUND 42 S Bowring 4-8-2 C Cogan (7) 58
413 (8) 005- ITALIAN ROSE 19 A Carroll 4-8-1 P M Quinn (7) 83
414 (6) 105- DYCE 150 (B) J Balding 5-7-10 L Charnock 64
415 (12) /06- QUALITAIR SILVER 9 Miss L Siddall 5-7-10 N Carlisle 36

6-1 Elite Hope, 13-2 Yanomami, 7-1 Hiltons Executive, Scintillating Sound, 8-1 General Klaire, 10-1 Mysticism, Dahlidya, Intiaash, 12-1 others.

2.30 CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE)
(£2,814: 2m) (10)

501 (6) 660- GENERAL ASSEMBLY 23J (S) G Margarson 7-10-0 G Carter 77
502 (7) 323- IL PRINCIPE 5 (E,C,D,F,S) John Berry 5-9-11 A Culhane [illegible]
503 (1) 004- WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 17 (CD) J Eyre 6-9-8 C Lowther 74
504 (10) 504- CHABROL 42J (F) P Gilligan 6-9-8 A Polli (5) 51
505 (4) 641- NIKITA'S STAR 13 (C,F) M Brittain 6-9-5 G Bardwell 81
506 (8) 245- PIPE MUSIC 51 (V,C) P Haslam 4-9-2 L Charnock 83
507 (5) 025- WILD CANARY 17 (V,C) D Marks 4-8-8 D Sweeney 81
508 (3) 5/4- WEEHEBY 9 (G) Miss A Stokell 10-8-5 P Bradley (7) 38
509 (2) 000- NOTATION 77 (C) D Chapman 5-8-2 J Fanning 63
510 (9) 0/6/ NORTHERN CHARMER 846J E Alston 7-7-10 J Quinn —

5-2 Il Principe, 7-2 Wild Canary, 6-1 Chabrol, 7-1 Whitley Grange Boy, Nikita's Star, 8-1 Pipe Music, 10-1 General Assembly, 16-1 others.

3.00 DERBYSHIRE SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,847: 1m) (7)

601 (6) 000- CYRO 17 (S) D Nicholls 9-3 M Richardson [illegible]
602 (7) 006- LAKE MEHRA 26 M Tompkins 8-12 G Faulkner (3) 38
603 (5) 000- LITTLE BOY BLUE 19 (B) M Waring 8-12 R Price —
604 (3) 320- NATHAN'S HERO 44 (BF) R Hollinshead 8-12 D Sweeney 47
605 (1) 00- DIAMOND BLUSH 19 N Littmoden 8-7 T G McLaughlin —
606 (2) 000- E B PEARL 42 N Bycroft 8-7 S Drowne 21
607 (4) 404- GOLDEN SYRUP 122 P Howling 8-7 J Quinn 53

11-10 Golden Syrup, 9-1 Nathan's Hero, 6-1 Cyro, 8-1 Lake Mehra, 10-1 Diamond Blush, 16-1 Little Boy Blue, 33-1 E B Pearl.

3.30 LINCOLNSHIRE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,827: 1m) (7)

1 (4) 210- SUNSET LADY 34 (D,F,G,S) P Haslam 9-7 P Goode (7) 44
2 (2) 653- LOVE BLUES 48 M Johnston 8-7 R FitzPatrick (5) 54
3 (3) 000- BUSTLING RIO 52 P Haslam 8-6 Dale Gibson 25
4 (7) 000- STATE WIND 40 N Littmoden 8-3 F Norton 64
5 (5) 000- RAYWARE BOY 68 (B) D Shaw 7-13 J Quinn 38
6 (1) 440- ALANA'S CAVALIER 13 R Hollinshead 7-11 T Williams [illegible]
7 (6) 000- FOURTH TIME LUCKY 19 B Murray 7-10 A Polli (5) 63

9-4 Sunset Lady, 11-4 Love Blues, 7-2 Alana's Cavalier, 8-1 State Wind, 10-1 Bustling Rio, Rayware Boy, 14-1 Fourth Time Lucky

Soaked makes brisk start to new year

SOAKED, the winner of nine handicaps last term, made a flying start to the new season in the Barry Dennis Bookmaker's Handicap at Lingfield on Saturday. The David Chapman-trained six-year-old, ridden by Tony Culhane, shadowed Tear White before striking for home over a furlong out and drawing away to prevail by 1¼ lengths. Soaked shares the 20th Century record for handicap wins in a season with Chapman's former charges Chaplins Club and Glencroft, and Sihafi, Vindaloo and Star Rage.

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	88	56	57	2	-85.89
Mrs M Reveley	58	48	40	3	-0.75
P Hobbs	54	45	28	2	+7.68
P Nicholls	53	50	15	3	-29.13
D Nicholson	36	34	31	2	-45.50
N Henderson	34	19	20	4	+20.68
N Twiston-Davies	33	33	25	2	-12.07
L Lungo	32	21	12	2	+5.58
Miss V Williams	27	16	21	2	+8.38
C Mann	27	21	16	3	+33.91
P Bowen	27	21	20	18	-22.98
Mrs S Smith	26	20	29	3	-7.48
J J O'Neill	25	24	18	2	+18.67
G M Moore	24	15	15	3	+31.51
R Alner	24	21	19	6	-23.90
K Bailey	23	21	20	9	-13.92
Mrs J Pitman	19	14	14	4	+25.18
J Williams	18	14	14	7	-9.67
O Sherwood	18	22	6	3	-27.27
M Pitman	17	7	16	21	+34.57

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	92	51	41	1	-73.20
R Johnson	73	73	80	8	-91.18
R Dunwoody	68	35	35	4	-10.85
M A Fitzgerald	59	31	39	11	-4.78
N Williamson	59	37	37	4	+25.91
T J Murphy	45	32	19	13	+143.16
C Llewellyn	44	48	43	0	-98.92
W Marston	40	38	34	5	-8.34
J Tizzard	38	41	24	10	-46.35
A Maguire	37	28	26	1	-65.99
A Dobbin	37	35	24	4	-56.37
S Durack	35	26	36	1	-56.90
R Supple	30	22	19	1	-20.30
L Wyer	30	22	17	7	-49.17
A Thornton	29	29	25	2	-18.98
Mr A Dempsey	23	14	9	8	-5.29
R Wakley	23	25	14	11	+45.29
P Niven	23	30	19	23	-16.91
C Maude	23	18	28	19	-56.13
J A McCarthy	22	15	9	2	-27.33

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: heavy

12.45 (2m 1f ch) 1, **Nipper Reed** (A Maguire, 9-4 fav); 2, Collier Bay (5-2); 3, Kingsfold Pet (9-1). 7 ran. 3l, nk. R Simpson. Tote: £2.90; £1.80, £2.20. DF: £4.20. CSF: £7.53.

1.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Fourth In Line** (N Williamson, 6-4 fav); 2, Dantes Cavalier (4-1); 3, Golden Spinner (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Cyborg De Beaufai, Mr President. Dist, dist. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £2.00; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £3.70. CSF: £6.88. Tricast: £26.12.

1.45 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Bosuns Mate** (C Llewellyn, 2-1 fav); 2, Yeoman Sailor (15-2); 3, Russell Road (9-2). 10 ran. 5l, 23l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £2.40, £2.00. DF: £13.60. CSF: £16.49.

2.15 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Rightsaidfred** (G Bradley, 8-1); 2, Ask Antony (3-1); 3, Toni's Tip (9-1). Sparkling Cone 5-2 fav. 8 ran. 3½l, 8l. Miss A Newton-Smith. Tote: £9.60; £1.90, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £18.70. CSF: £30.62. Tricast: £203.26.

2.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, **King's Road** (C Llewellyn, 11-10 fav; Richard Evans's nap and Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Rio's King (7-2); 3, Storm Of Gold (10-1). 5 ran. 2l, 18l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.10. DF: £3.10. CSF: £4.91.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, **Moorish** (C Llewellyn, 9-1); 2, Bold Gait (2-1 fav); 3, City Hall (100-30). 7 ran. Hd, 7l. N T-Davies. Tote: £15.10; £4.50, £2.40. DF: £22.70. CSF: £25.67.

Placepot: £28.70. **Quadpot:** £13.40.

Ayr

Going: heavy

12.20 1, **Thanks Keith** (2-1 fav); 2, Braano (11-4); 3, Ellerbeck (9-2). 5 ran.

12.50 1, **Hurst Flyer** (3-1); 2, Mike Stan (11-10 fav). 3 ran.

1.20 1, **Quick March** (11-8 fav); 2, Who Dares Wins (6-4); 3, Political Mister (33-1). 11 ran. NR: Sail On Sid.

1.50 1, **Chipped Out** (7-4 fav); 2, Commuted Schedule (6-1); 3, Coqui Lane (4-1). 7 ran.

2.20 1, **Crystal Gift** (6-1); 2, Lord Podgski (100-30); 3, Palacegate King (5-4 fav). 6 ran.

2.50 1, **Chummy's Saga** (7-4); 2, Thornlaw House (6-1); 3, Kings Lane (6-1). Mr Frangipani 6-4 fav. 4 ran. NR: Fen Terrier.

3.20 1, **Mr Mahdlo** (3-1); 2, Aren't We Lucky (7-2); 3, Rubor (14-1). Palace of Gold 5-2 fav. 7 ran.

Uttoxeter

Going: soft

12.55 1, **Follow De Call** (16-1); 2, Actral Invasion (14-1); 3, Centaur Express (11-8 fav). 8 ran.

1.25 1, **Prussia** (5-1); 2, Orange Place (11-2); 3, Rusk (11-4 fav). 10 ran.

1.55 1, **Madison County** (7-2); 2, Share Options (7-4 fav); 3, In Truth (4-1). 4 ran.

2.25 1, **Flying Gunner** (9-4 fav); 2, Dom Beltrano (11-2); 3, Cool Spring (9-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Stewarts Pride.

2.55 1, **Belmorebruno** (2-1); 2, I'm Maggy (7-2). Monicasman (I) 10-11 fav. 3 ran.

3.26 1, **Shagreen** (9-2); 2, McHattie (4-6 fav); 3, Alla (9-1). 10 ran.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.40 1, **Mystagogue** (5-2); 2, Alsahib (4-7 fav); 3, Dronya (12-1). 7 ran.

1.10 1, **Mukarrab** (100-30 fav); 2, Baptismal Rock (6-1); 3, Intiaash (9-1). 13 ran.

1.40 1, **Soaked** (7-2); 2, Tear White (9-4 fav); 3, Half Tone (8-1). 8 ran.

2.10 1, **Scraggys Dream** (25-1); 2, Sky City (33-1); 3, Nadisha (16-1). Simply Magical 11-8 fav. 13 ran. NR: Bamboo Garden.

2.40 1, **Dancing Rio** (16-1); 2, Swan Hunter (8-1); 3, Be Warned (9-1). White Plains 4-1 fav. 12 ran.

3.10 1, **Threadneedle** (16-1); 2, Topton (10-1); 3, Big Ben (14-1); 4, Rafin (6-1). Silca Blanka 4-1 fav. 16 ran.

3.40 1, **Acid Test** (4-1 fav); 2, Ok John (15-2); 3, Friendly Brave (11-2). 13 ran.

Southwell

Going: standard

12.30 1, **Tom** (9-1); 2, Live Project (10-1); 3, Miss All Alone (9-1); 4, Tilaal (20-1). Blooming Amazing 3-1 fav. 16 ran.

1.00 1, **Holy Smoke** (2-1 fav); 2, Mutabari (12-1); 3, Murahedeth (12-1); 3, Palms (16-1). 16 ran.

1.30 1, **Jibereen** (7-2); 2, Swiftach (6-2); 3, Rambo Waltzer (7-4 fav). 14 ran.

2.00 1, **Just Wiz** (7-2 jt-fav); 2, Baron de Pichon (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Miss Doodyousness (20-1). 14 ran.

2.30 1, **Palace Green** (4-1); 2, Ennvale (9-1); 3, Trina's Pet (14-1). Tread Softly 5-2 fav. 10 ran.

3.00 1, **Migwar** (7-2); 2, Arcesh (7-1); 3, Bunnies Own (20-1). Bonne Ville 7-4 fav. 14 ran.

3.30 1, **Copper Shell** (25-1); 2, Abuljood (6-1); 3, Lightning Rebel (33-1). Essandess 100-30 fav. 14 ran.

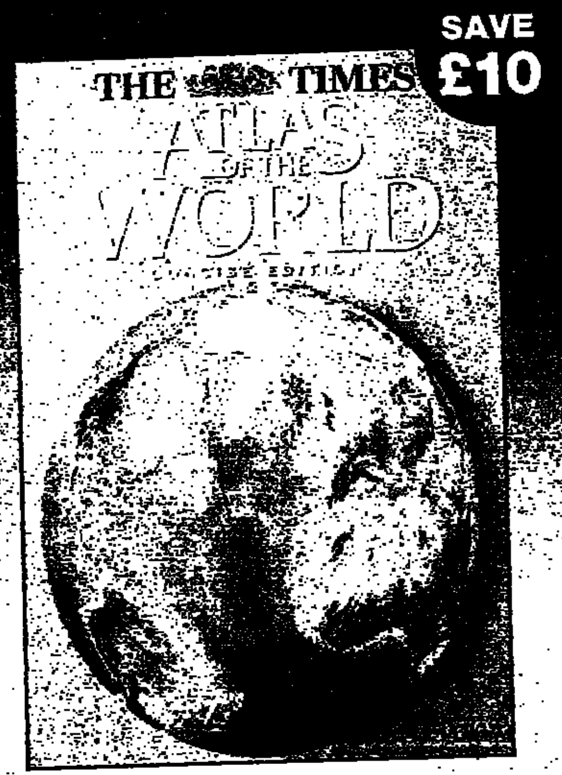
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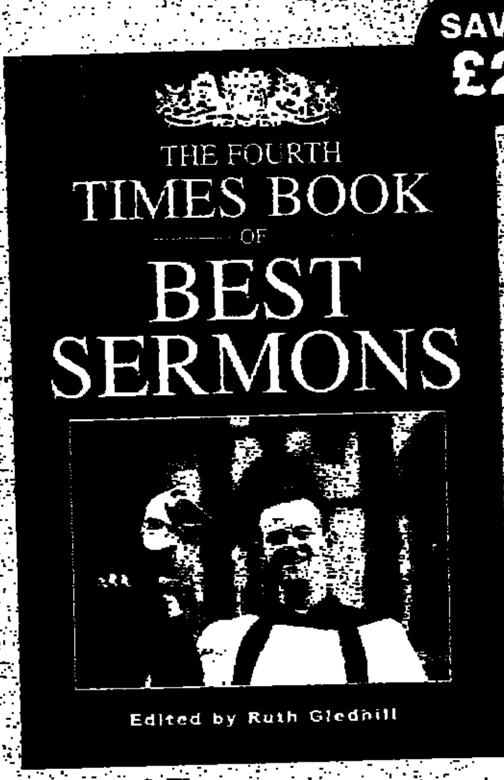
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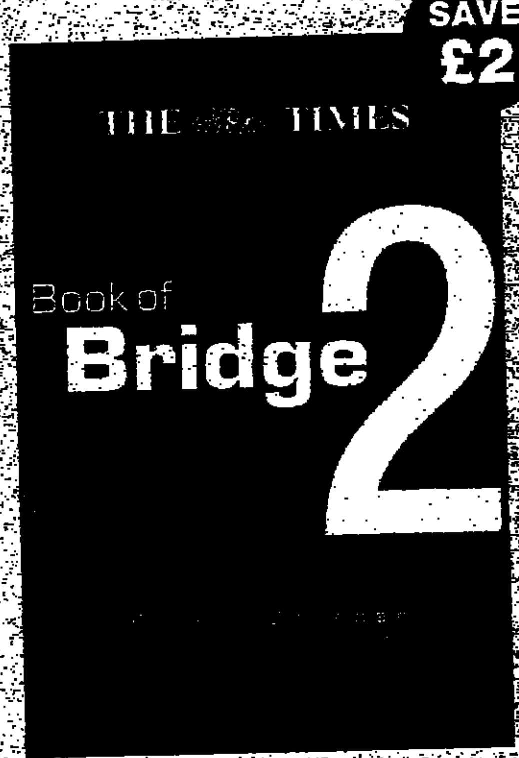
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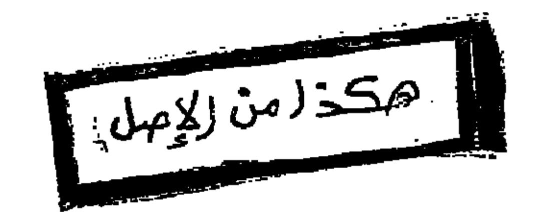
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Law Report January 4 1999 Court of Appeal

Dismissal in breach of sick pay term after pregnancy unfair

Halfpenny v IGE Medical Systems Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment December 18]

An employee who had been on maternity leave, but who was dismissed when she was unable, through post-natal depression, to return to work at the end of the statutory period of extended maternity absence, was wrongfully and unfairly dismissed and had been subjected to unlawful sex discrimination since she had not exhausted her contractual entitlement to sick pay when she was dismissed.

The right to return to work within 29 weeks of pregnancy became complete and effective when proper notice was given. Once she gave notice, the employee's contract of employment revived so that whether or not her failure to return on the due date put her in breach of the contract depended on its terms.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the employee, Mrs Marion Halfpenny, against the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal ([1997] ICR 1007) of her appeal from the dismissal by a *Manchester industrial tribunal* of her complaint that she had been unfairly dismissed and unlawfully discriminated against the ground of sex by her employers, IGE Medical Systems Ltd.

Section 71 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, *replacing section* 33 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, provides:

"(1) An employee who is absent from work at any time during her maternity leave period is ... entitled to the benefit of the terms and conditions of *employment* which would have been applicable to her if she had not been absent (and had not been pregnant or given birth to a child)."

Section 73 of the 1996 Act, defines the period of maternity leave as 14 *weeks from its commencement* or until the birth of the child, if later.

Section 79 of the 1996 Act provides:

"(1) An employee who - (a) has the right conferred by section 71, and (b) has, at the beginning of the eleventh week before the expected week of childbirth, been continuously employed for a period of not less than two years, also has the right to return to work at any time during the period beginning at the end of her maternity leave period and ending twenty-nine weeks after the beginning of the week in which childbirth occurs.

"(2) An employee's right to return to work under this section is the right to return to work with the person who was her employer be*fore the end of her maternity leave* period, or (where appropriate) his *successor*, in the job in which she was then employed -

(a) on terms and conditions as to remuneration not less favourable than those which would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work at any time since the commencement of her maternity leave period,

(b) with her seniority, pension rights and similar rights as they would have been if the period or periods of her employment prior to the end of her maternity leave period were continuous with her employment following her return to work ... and

(c) *otherwise on terms and conditions not less favourable than those* which would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work after the end of her maternity leave period."

Miss Laura Cox, QC and Miss Tess Gill for the employee; Mr Paul Nicholls for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said the employee had commenced employment with IGE Medical Systems in June 1988 and in time had become the regional administrator and lynchpin of their Cheshire office.

She had become pregnant in summer 1994: complications had forced her to take paid sick leave in August 1994. Her contractual entitlement to paid sick leave was 30 weeks in any 12-month period. She remained unfit to return to work.

In February 1995, having by then completed more than two years continuous employment, she had given proper notice that she intended to exercise her right to return to work at the expiration of 29 weeks from the birth of her baby on April 5, 1995.

Her entitlement to statutory maternity leave was triggered on March 6, 1995. She had then been in receipt of maternity pay until July 10, 1995. In September 1995 she informed her employers that *she intended to return to work* at the end of the period of extended maternity absence, which, they told her, would be October 30, 1995.

On October 13, she had sought to delay her return to work on the ground of her ill-health, submitting a medical certificate to confirm that she was suffering from post-natal depression.

Her employers were sympathetic and agreed to extend her leave, informing her that she still retained her right to return to work *up until November 27*.

She had remained unwell and had written expressing her concern that her depressive illness would delay her return beyond that date. The company had replied that she was entitled to ex*tend her maternity leave for medi*cal reasons by four weeks, after which it was not obliged to keep her job open and would not do so. She had been dismissed when she failed to turn up for work on November 27.

The industrial tribunal had dismissed all her claims on the basis that her employment had terminated on the cessation of the receipt of maternity pay on July 7, 1995.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had reversed the findings as to *the date of termination because it* was and always had been common ground that the contract continued until November 27.

The EAT had held that the contract was put in suspense and that upon the employee's failure to exercise her right to return, the contract of employment had come to an end by implied agreement not by any act of termination by the employers. Accordingly she was not entitled to any relief.

The appeal gave rise to a number of difficult issues, including *when and how the employ*ment terminated in the case of a pregnant employee who was prevented by illness from returning at the end of the extended maternity leave period.

If she was dismissed, was the dismissal *automatically unfair?* What was the extent of the protection afforded to women as regards pregnancy and maternity deriving from the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Equal Treatment Directive 76/207/EEC (OJ 1976 No L39/40).

There were no easy answers to those fundamental questions.

His Lordship agreed with the industrial tribunal that "the law on maternity leave is notoriously complex ... fraught with pitfalls for the *employee*."

It was surely not too much to ask of the legislature that those who had to grapple with that topic should not have to have a wet towel around their heads as the single most important aid to the understanding of their rights.

In his Lordship's judgment the statutory right to return to work was superimposed upon the contract of employment. It was an employment right and was quite independent of the right not to be unfairly dismissed.

*It did not depend on the agree*ment of the parties. Where, as in the instant case, there were no effective contractual terms, the employee's rights were entirely governed by statute.

Kwik Save Stores v Greaves ([1998] IRLR 245) *determined that* the exercise of the right was completed by the giving of the appropriate notice at the appropriate time. Proper notice, not actual return to work or actual presence at work on the notified day, made the exercise *of the right complete and effective*.

The employee had given proper notice. If the right was exercised it must, in his Lordship's judgment, take effect both with regard to her contractual position as well as her statutory position.

Pending the exercise of the right to return to work the employment contract was suspended. The employee's rights crystallised on her giving the proper statutory notice, and the contract of employment with all its benefits and burdens revived by virtue of section 79(2).

To all intents and purposes she had been restored to her job on terms and conditions not less favourable than would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work after the end of her maternity leave period.

Consequently, whether or not the employee would be in breach of the terms of the revived contract by failing to attend for work would depend on the terms of her employment and the reason for her non-attendance.

As she had not exhausted her contractual entitlement to sick leave, her employers had no lawful reason to dismiss her. Her dismissal was wrongful and she was entitled to damages.

The answer to the claim for sex discrimination was that the employee had been employed as soon as she exercised her right to return

The industrial tribunal had found that if the employee had returned to work at the end of leave, even for a day, then they would have been bound to hold that she had been unlawfully discriminated against. That finding of unlawful discrimination was not and could not be challenged.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Clare Hockey, Manchester; Cameron McKenna.

Reinsurance was not transferred

In re Friends' Provident Life Office

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment December 4]

Where a reinsurer gave a policy of reinsurance back to the reinsured, that determined the reinsurance policy. Accordingly, it could not be said that the long term business had been transferred from the reinsurer to the insured for the purposes of Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the In*surance Companies Act 1982*.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when refusing a petition by Friends' Provident Life Office seeking the sanction of the court for what was said to be the transfer of the long term rein*surance business to the* petitioner from its subsidiary, Friends' Provident Linked Life Assurance (FPLLA).

Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, as inserted by regulation 28 of Schedule 3 to *the Insurance Companies* (Third Insurance Directives) Regulations (SI 1994 No 1696) provides:

"(1) Where it is proposed to carry out a scheme under which the whole or part of the long term business carried on by an insurance company to which *this Part* of the Act applies ... the transferor company or the transferee company may apply to the court, by petition, for an order sanctioning the scheme."

Mr Robin Hollington for the petitioner.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that the petitioner's business related to unit-linked policies which it had issued. To remove uncertainty which arose out of the tax regime applicable in 1983, the petitioner reinsured that part of its business with FPLLA, a wholly owned subsidiary which was formed for that purpose.

In 1990, the tax reasons for that reinsurance structure came to an end. The petitioner and FPLLA therefore proposed a scheme whereby FPLLA's reinsurance business be transferred to the petitioner. Accordingly, the petitioner sought the sanction of the court pursuant to the Schedule.

His Lordship said that, subject to three points of principle, it was plain that the court should sanction the scheme as proposed:

1 Was reinsurance business of the type entered into between the petitioner and FPLLA within the ambit of the Schedule?

His Lordship said that as a matter of general principle if a particular insurance contract entered into by an insurer constituted long term business, then, in the absence of special facts or clear words of the relevant statutory provision to the contrary, the contract between the insurer and a re-insurer whereby part or all of the risk undertaken by the insurer under that contract was laid off, should constitute long term business.

If, as in the case under the 1982 Act, an expression such as "long term business" was defined by reference to a type of insurance business then, both in terms of language and in terms of concept, it would appear to govern reinsurance reinsurance simply involved the insurer himself insuring with another person, namely the reinsurer, all or part of the risk which the insurer had himself underwritten.

2 Could it be said that business was transferred by FPLLA within the meaning of paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule.

His Lordship said that at first sight the idea that a reinsurer could be said to transfer the policy of reinsurance to the reinsured appeared to involve a conceptual difficulty, because the effect of the transfer was to put an end to the reinsurance policy altogether.

However much one might call it a transfer, the proposed transaction was really a cancellation or surrender of the policy.

It was not open to the court to dress up what was in reality a cancellation of a series of reinsurance policies as if it were a transfer of reinsurance business.

If it did so, it could be said that any time that a reinsurer and reinsured agreed to cancel a reinsurance policy, or a series of reinsurance policies, or, any time that an insurer agreed with an insured to cancel an insurance policy or a series of insurance policies, that could not lawfully be done without the prior sanction of the court.

His Lordship concluded that however the scheme was defined or described it could not be described as involving a transfer of long term business.

As between the policy-holders and the petitioner, nothing was transferred; the terms, rights and obligations under those insurance policies and the insurance business involved in those policies remained wholly unaffected as between the insurer and insured.

The business was not so much transferred as determined. If the transfer must involve, and was intended to involve the business being destroyed and ceasing to exist, then, by definition that could be no transfer of that business.

3 Ought the court to sanction the proposed scheme as the same result could be achieved by cancellation without the court's sanction?

His Lordship said that the same objective as that proposed by the scheme could be achieved through the medium of cancelling or surrendering the reinsurance contracts between the petitioner and FPLLA which would not require the sanction of the court.

The only reason why the sanction of the court was being sought was that the taxation consequences of cancellation were highly disadvantageous.

Indeed, the taxation consequences of cancellation were so unattractive that, if the choice was between *keeping the present reinsurance ar*rangements in place or cancelling the reinsurance policies, the choice would unhesitatingly be to take the former.

Accordingly, it could be said that the court should refuse to sanc*tion the scheme on the same sort of* grounds upon which Mr Justice Brightman refused to sanction the reduction of capital in *In re Rylands-Whitecross* (unreported, December 21, 1973).

His Lordship said that had he *found for the petitioner on the sec*ond issue, he would not have considered it appropriate to refuse to sanction the scheme.

In *Rylands-Whitecross*, that which the court was being asked to approve was precious close to being a sham. *In the present case* if the arrangement embodied in the scheme had fallen within the Schedule, there would have been a genuine transfer of business.

Moreover, the tax consequence of cancellation were so grave that no transaction would occur at all. That was unlike *Rylands-Whitecross*, where there was merely a small saving in stamp duty.

Finally, in the present case the Inland Revenue had been consulted about the proposed scheme and had made it clear that they did not object.

Solicitors: Sweetlands, Dorking.

Home value not aggregated

Waterford Wedgwood plc and Another v David Nagli Ltd (in liquidation) and Others

Before Mr Charles Aldous, QC

[Judgment December 4]

On an application for a personal costs order under section 17 of the Legal Aid Act 1988, the value of any beneficial interest a legally assisted party might have in his principal dwelling house was not to be aggregated with that held by his spouse or any other third party for the purposes of determining the financial resources of the legally assisted party.

Mr Charles Aldous, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the application of the third party, Mr Gabriel Haughton, to enforce an order for costs which he had obtained against the second defendant, Mr David Nagli, arising from the earlier order of Mr Aldous setting aside the third party notice served by Mr Nagli on Mr Haughton alleging that the defendants had been the victims of fraud.

Mr Nicholas Caddick for Mr Nagli; Mr Graham Halkerston for Mr Haughton.

HIS LORDSHIP said that at an earlier stage of the proceedings the third-party notice issued by Mr Nagli against Mr Haughton had been set aside on the basis that there *was no jurisdiction under articles* 6(2) and/or 6(3) of the Brussels Convention for Mr Nagli's claim against Mr Haughton to be heard in England instead of the Republic of Ireland.

In the earlier proceedings the judge had held that but for the Brussels Convention Mr Nagli had established a good arguable case. No other determination on the merits of Mr Nagli's claim against Mr Haughton was made.

The major issue on the application concerned the value attributable to the dwelling house known as Marrowells, Weybridge, in which Mr Nagli lived with his family. After the collapse of Mr Nagli's business the family sold their former home.

Mr Nagli's half share of the net proceeds of sale, £162,039.87, was accounted for as follows: £132,490.51 toward the purchase of Marrowells; £25,049.36 held by Mr Haughton pending this application and £1,500 representing Mr Nagli's equal contribution to the Naglis' overdrawn joint account.

Marrowells, which was also in*tended as a home for Mrs Nagli's* mother, cost £457,693.68, and was paid for as to £287,693.68 by Mr and Mrs Nagli from the proceeds of Brackenhill and as to £170,000 by a temporary mortgage to be repaid by Mrs Nagli's mother out of *the proceeds of sale of her own* house.

The property was registered in the joint names of Mrs Nagli and her mother, although Mr Nagli conceded that he held a beneficial interest commensurate with his *contribution to the purchase price*.

In his affidavit of means Mr Nagli set out his income and assets as follows: income £744.51 a month in state and private pensions; expenditure, half of the household expenditure of himself and his wife, £831.21; notional capital interest in Marrowells, £135,490.51; retained sum, £25,049.36; liabilities, including half share of loan from Mrs Nagli's mother totalling £21,323.79, about £51,000

Since August 1997 Mr Nagli had remained liable to the first plaintiff for its costs, which the first plaintiff claimed to be in the region of £300,000. No steps had as yet been taken to assess or enforce those costs.

Section 17 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provided that the costs liability of a legally assisted party should not exceed a reasonable amount, having regard to all the circumstances, including the financial resources of the parties and their conduct during the dispute.

By application of regulation 126 of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339) and *paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 to the* Civil Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources) Regulations (SI 1989 No 338), the first £100,000 of the value of Mr Nagli's interest in his principal home, Marrowells, was left out of account when determining his *disposable income and capital*.

His Lordship rejected Mr Halkerston's submission that, as a spouse's resources were treated as the assisted person's resources when assessing whether he was to be granted legal aid, so also must *the spouse's interest in the dwell*ing house be aggregated with the assisted person's in determining the value to be taken into account for the purposes of section 17(1).

It did not follow that, where a third party's resources were to be treated as the assisted person's when assessing that person's entitlement to legal aid, those same resources were also to be treated as belonging to the assisted person when considering whether to make a personal costs order against him.

Section 17 made no provision for the consideration of assets belonging to the assisted person's spouse. Nor was there any basis on which to include that part of Mrs Nagli's beneficial interest which arose from her contribution to the purchase price under paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 to the Civil Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1989.

Mr Haughton estimated that he had incurred costs in the region of £27,000. Even if Mr Nagli's beneficial interest were to be valued on the assumption that the house could be sold with vacant possession against the wishes of Mrs Nagli and her mother, that would leave a net worth of only £35,000 after the statutory deduction, less a further £5,000 which was to be disregarded by operation of paragraph 14A of Schedule 3 to (SI 1989 No 338) *because of Mr Nagli's low* annual disposable income.

Mr Nagli's assets, even when his equitable interest in Marrowells was valued as above, would only marginally exceed his liabilities, in which case the court was *not prepared* to make a section 17 order against him.

Solicitors: Pullig & Co; Michael Vine & Co, Elstree.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Is medicinal product essentially similar?

Regina v Licensing Authority established by the Medicines Act 1968 (acting by the Medicines Control Agency), Ex parte Generics (UK) Ltd (E.R. Squibb & Sons Ltd, intervener)

Same v Same, Ex parte The Wellcome Foundation Ltd

Same v Same, Ex parte Glaxo Operations UK Ltd and Others (Generics (UK) Ltd, intervener)

Case C-368/96

For the purposes of the abridged procedure laid down for authorising the marketing of medicinal products in a Community directive, a product was "essentially similar" to another product if it had the same qualitative and *quantitative* composition in terms of active principles and the same pharmaceutical form, and was bioequivalent, unless it differed significantly as to safety or efficacy.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on December 3 on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on questions on the interpretation and validity of article 4.8(a)(iii) of Council Directive 65/65/EEC of January 26, 1965 on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to medicinal products (OJ, English Special Edition 1965-1966, p20) as amended by Council Directive *87/21/EEC of December 22, 1986* (OJ 1987 L15, p36).

Article 4.8(a) provides that, for the purposes of obtaining an authorisation to place a medicinal product on the market as provided for in article 3, the applicant is not *required to provide* the results of pharmacological and toxicological tests or of clinical trials if he can demonstrate "(iii) that the medicinal product is essentially similar to a product which has been authorised within the Community for not less than six years and is marketed in the member state for which the application is made; this period shall be extended to 10 years in the case of high-technology medicinal products; furthermore, a member state may also extend that period to 10 years where it considers this necessary in the interest of public health?."

The three sets of proceedings concerned the Medicines Control Agency's refusal to grant to Generics, under the abridged procedure in article 4.8(a), a marketing au*thorisation for a product known as* Captotopril in respect of indications which had not been approved in any member state for at least 10 years, and its decision to grant, under that procedure, authorisations for products known as Aciclovir and Ranitidine to *A/S* Gea Farmaceutisk Fabrik and Generics, respectively.

The Divisional Court's fifth question asked whether, in the light of the answers to its questions 1 to 4, article 4.8(a)(iii) was invalid as contrary to the principles of protection of innovation and/or non-discrimination and/or proportionality and/or respect for property.

The Court of Justice said, inter alia, that Directive 65/65 did not define the concept of an "essentially similar" medicinal product, but in the particular circumstances it was legitimate to have regard to the criteria stated in the minutes of the meeting of the Council at which Directive 87/21 was adopted.

On that and other grounds stated by it the court ruled:

1 Article 4.8(a)(iii) of Directive 65/65, as amended by Directive 87/21, was to be interpreted as meaning that a medicinal product was essentially similar to an original medicinal product where it satisfied the criteria of having the same qualitative and quantitative composition in terms of active principles, of having the same pharmaceutical form, and of being bioequivalent, unless it was apparent in the light of scientific knowledge that it differed significantly from *the original product as re*garded safety or efficacy.

The competent authority of a member state could not disregard those three criteria when it was required to determine whether a particular medicinal product was es*sentially similar to an original* medicinal product.

2 A medicinal product that was essentially similar to a product which had been authorised for not less than six or 10 years in the Community and was marketed in the member state for which the application was made could be authorised, under the abridged procedure provided for in article 4.8(a)(iii) as amended, for all therapeutic indications already authorised for that product.

3 Such a product could be so authorised for all dosage forms, doses and dosage schedules already authorised for that product.

4 The fact that the original or abridged applications for marketing authorisations were made before entry into force of Commission Regulation (EC) No 541/95 of March 10, 1995 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of a marketing authorisation granted by a *competent authority* of a member state (OJ 1995 L55, p7) did not affect the answers to the second and third questions.

5 Consideration of the fifth question had not disclosed any factor of such a kind as to affect the validity of article 4.8(a)(iii) as amended.

Free circulation of motor vehicles of historic interest

Clees v Hauptzollamt Wuppertal

Case C-259/97

For the purpose of customs clearance for free circulation, motor vehicles which were (i) in their original state, without changes to the chassis, steering or braking system, engine, etc, (ii) at least 30 years old, and (iii) of a model or type which was no longer in pro*duction*, were presumed to be of historical or ethnographic interest.

However, motor vehicles which satisfied those conditions were not of historical or ethnographic interest where the competent authority established that they were not liable to evidence a *significant step* in the evolution of human achievements or illustrate a period of that evolution.

In addition, the criteria laid down by the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Communities concerning the characteristics required in order for a vehicle to be included in a collection had to be met.

The Fourth Chamber of the Court of Justice so ruled on December 3, when *interpreting* heading 9705 of the combined nomenclature contained in Annex I to Council *Regulation* (EEC) No 2658/87 of July 23, 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ 1987 L256, p1), on a request for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Finanzgericht (Finance Court), Düsseldorf, Germany.

Mr Clees's application to the cus*toms* office for clearance for free circulation of a Mercedes Benz 300 SL car manufactured in 1956, as falling under heading 9705 which refers to "collections and collector's pieces of historical [or] ethnographic interest" was originally granted, but an amended assessment was later issued and import duties claimed on the ground that the vehicle had been wrongly classified under heading 9705 and was to be treated as a second-hand car falling under heading 8703.

In its judgment the court said that for a vehicle to be classified un*der heading* 9705 it had to be of "historical or ethnographic interest" motor vehicles, which related to human achievements in the field of car design, could aptly be so described if they evidenced a significant step in the evolution of human achievements or illustrated a period of that evolution.

A further requirement was that the criteria referred to in Case 200/84 *Daiber v Hauptzollamt Reutlingen* ([1985] ECR 3363) concerning the characteristics a vehicle had to possess in order to be included in a collection, were satisfied.

The two conditions were cumulative.

The court referred to an explanatory note relating to heading 9705 adopted by the Commission of the *European Communities* (OJ 1996 C127, p3).

One of the criteria there stated, setting a minimum age for the vehicle, had to be considered in conjunction with the criterion that it was no longer in production, and as relative, in as much as it was possible for a more recent vehicle to possess features rendering it of historical interest.

Vehicles which met the three criteria specified in the explanatory note were, as a rule, *such as to attest* to the distinctive technical and aesthetic features of the age in which they were manufactured and thus such as to illustrate, in particular, a period of the evolution of human achievements in the field of car design.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

[illegible]

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

Nissan tipped to link with rival

BY OUR CITY STAFF

NISSAN, the troubled Japanese carmaker, is reported to be close to announcing a tie-up with one of its biggest Western rivals. It is known to have held talks with Renault, DaimlerChrysler and Ford for several months, and could unveil an agreement with one of them by the end of the month.

Experts believe that any such deal is likely to fall short of a full merger or takeover. Instead, it is expected to involve sales and distribution arrangements and some sort of collaboration over the development of new car models.

Reports yesterday suggested that the Nissan car factory in Sunderland, which recently came top of a European productivity league table, could benefit by being adapted to produce more than one car marque. The plant, which has operated since 1986 and turns out some 280,000 Primera and Micra cars a year, employs 4,300 people and is poised for expansion.

An alliance between the debt-laden Japanese group and one of its rivals would be just the latest deal in an industry that is beset by overcapacity and poor profitability.

DaimlerChrysler, which has for some time been in talks to acquire Nissan's truck manufacturing arm, is itself the product of the recent $92 billion (£54 billion) marriage of Germany's Daimler-Benz, which owns Mercedes, and Chrysler of the US.

BC Partners poised to buy Allied Domecq business

BY DOMINIC WALSH

BC PARTNERS, the venture capital group, has emerged as the front-runner to buy Cantrell & Cochrane, the Irish drinks distributor owned by Allied Domecq, in a deal worth up to £530 million.

Allied, which acquired full control of C&C last July when it bought out Diageo's half share, has been sounding out potential trade and financial buyers after shelving plans to offload the business via a stock market flotation.

Although insiders claim a flotation is still a possibility, City sources believe Allied is in advanced negotiations over a sale to BC Partners. The sale price is thought to be close to £500 million, although the total figure, after including a dividend payable by C&C to Allied, is nearer £530 million. Warburg Dillon Read's private equity arm is also thought to have been in the running.

The predicted price tag is likely to disappoint City analysts who had placed a value of between £600 million and £700 million on C&C when it was put up for sale last summer through the Investment Bank of Ireland and Goldman Sachs. Allied is believed to have paid about £270 million for Diageo's 49.6 per cent stake.

C&C, which is one of Ireland's biggest drinks suppliers, distributes the likes of Bulmer cider and Britvic soft drinks. It also has a number of its own brands including Ballygowan, the mineral water, and Tullamore Dew, the Irish whiskey.



Tony Hales hopes to forge an alliance of his own after the link-up between rivals Grand Metropolitan and Guinness

Allied Domecq's disposal of C&C is likely to provoke calls for some of the proceeds to be returned to shareholders. However, the group may choose to return to the acquisition trail as it seeks to respond to the challenge posed by the merger a year ago of its biggest drinks rivals, Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, to form Diageo.

Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, has made no secret of his desire to respond to the merger by forging an alliance of his own. However, his attempts to coax his preferred candidate, Seagram, to the altar have come to nothing. The Canadian spirits and entertainment group recently announced its intention to go it alone and the prospects of a marriage now look remote.

For BC Partners, the purchase of C&C would be one of its biggest acquisitions since it was spun out of Barings after the merchant bank's collapse in 1995. In July it acquired Hurst Publishing, the company behind *Auto Trader* magazine, in a £260 million deal, then in December it paid £100 million for the Ross Breeders chicken division of Hillsdown Holdings.

PwC takes acquisition trail in Israel

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TEL AVIV

THE world's largest accounting and consulting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers, is looking to expand in Israel. Several businesses are on its shopping list, which is headed by plans to buy a management software business.

The firm, which was created last year out of the global merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, said that it is looking at acquisitions via its Israeli affiliate, the accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman.

According to Avraham Berger, managing partner in Kesselman, the firm is looking specifically for a management software company because "it is understood that Israel is a leader in this area". The firm is said to be talking to several companies.

Jonathan Shimshoni, chief executive of the sister practice Kesselman Consulting, said that the firm is also considering acquisitions in other areas of consulting, such as marketing, human resources, systems consulting or software assistance.

Jermyn Brooks, global managing partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers, said separately that PwC is setting up a $50 million (£29 million) global fund to invest in high-tecnology and life science companies over three years. "I am certain some of these funds will find their way to Israel," Mr Brooks told a news conference. He said that the investments would be of between $2 million and $5 million per company.

PwC is working with Kesselman to bring international companies to Israel, particularly in high-tech fields, Mr Brooks said. "We see great potential in the development of industry, especially high-tech industry, and of the investment in Israel of world-leading conglomerates," he said.

Strutt & Parker lifts hotels side

STRUTT & PARKER, the upmarket estate agent, has bolstered its hotel property arm by acquiring William Hillary Leisure & Hotels for an undisclosed price (Dominic Walsh writes).

The deal, which has taken nine months to negotiate, quadruples the size of Strutt & Parker's hotel and leisure division. The enlarged business will operate from William Hillary's offices in London and Salisbury.

Strutt & Parker, still an independent partnership, operates from 22 offices throughout the UK.

P&O woos its wharfies to alter working ways

BY ADAM JONES

P&O, the British shipping group, faces a month of tense union negotiations as it tries to persuade the workers at its cargo-handling facilities in Australia — known as "wharfies" — to agree to job losses and other measures aimed at increasing productivity.

P&O is the largest container port operator in Australia, controlling half the waterfront and employing about 1,500.

The company has just started talks with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), seeking to reach separate local agreements on manning of its cargo operations in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Fremantle.

The MUA hit the headlines last year when its members picketed Patrick, P&O's biggest stevedoring rival, in a dispute that split Australians.

P&O, which is determined to avoid such a costly confrontation, said that it has already arrived at a framework agreement with the MUA that signals the union's willingness to improve productivity.

The company wants to outsource some back-up functions, such as cleaning and maintenance, while retaining the union's traditional dominance in loading and unloading of cargo. It also wants different shift patterns and other flexible working measures.

The Sydney operation is likely to be the toughest for P&O to reform because the union is seen as most militant there.

Investors await view on suing

INVESTORS in Powerscreen, the Northern Irish engineer that was rocked by an accounting black hole last year, face a prolonged wait to discover whether the company is to sue three former directors or its former auditor, KPMG (Adam Jones writes).

There had been hopes that Powerscreen would have a firm recommendation from Herbert Smith, the City law firm, by Christmas, advising on whether to proceed with legal action against any of the parties.

However, a decision is understood to have been pushed back to this month at the earliest. The former directors who could be targeted by Powerscreen are Shay McKeown, the former chief executive, Pat Dooey and Barry Cosgrove.

The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the accounting irregularities.

Reuters makes a billion changes to greet the euro

BY ROBERT LEA

YESTERDAY lunchtime saw Geoffrey Sanderson a happy man. He'd been planning to work non-stop, fuelled only by adrenalin, he said, until 6pm Sunday evening, by which time the last of one billion bits of information would finally have been changed.

As it was, Reuters, for whom Mr Sanderson was running the show as project manager of the euro conversion weekend, had deemed itself "euro-fit" seven hours ahead of schedule and Mr Sanderson was off to get some lunch.

But even as he was looking at stepping away from his desk at the Reuters mission control in London's Docklands, the first calls were coming through to Reuters Help Desk hotline.

Yet those seeking evidence of a crumbling in the City edifice, despite claims throughout the Square Mile of a conversion weekend job well-done, were left waiting for their story.

"The calls have been similar to what we get during a normal working week," Mr Sanderson said. "It's 'where do we find this bit of data' and 'how should we be using this product'? We have had no reports of any failures."

Reuters as a premier provider of foreign exchange transaction systems in the City should, more than anyone, have known the extent of the job at the weekend.

The past three days has seen it put 700 people on the case, about 5 per cent of its staff and 100 more than it had previously thought it would need. The extra pairs of eyes and hands were essentially data-checking, but they enabled the company to sign-off as "prepared" at 11am Sunday morning.

So everything to go smoothly this Monday morning, then? "Ah," said Mr Sanderson, "let's see. We'll have a better idea in those couple of hours around 8 o'clock when the market opens in London."

Reports, pages 1, 6, 48

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

ROMPU
(b) Broken, interrupted or displaced. The French for "bust". In Heraldry, an Armorial Charge that is broken may be described as Rompu. But the past participle is most frequently applied to geometrical charges and lines.

HYPOID
(c) Hypoid gear is a combination of the spiral bevel and worm type. It is very quiet in operation. The motion of the teeth is a combination of rolling and sliding, causing high loading pressure and high rubbing speed. Very special "Extreme Pressure" lubricant is essential.

BEGUINES
(c) Women leading a pious but not monastic life, in the late Middle Ages mainly in the Low Countries. Some lived alone, others in communities. They took vows of celibacy, but were free to renounce them. They clashed with the religious authorities, mainly because of their belief in a direct personal relationship with God.

LAMPASSETTE
(b) A type of damask. It looks like that produced by the secondary weft of Lampar. One or more weft threads working together form the ground and the pattern motifs. The latter are formed by floats bound in a weave in which the ends interlace in groups of two or three.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Solution: 1 Rxh7+! Kxh7; 2 Rh1+ Bh6; 3 Qf7+ and mate follows

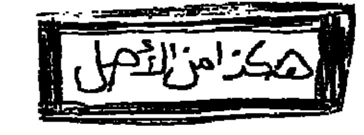
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6640 (–0.0095)
German Mark
2.7731 (–0.0324)
Exchange index
99.7 (–1.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3551.3 (+17.7)
FTSE 100
5882.6 (+15.4)
New York Dow Jones
9189.41 (–28.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
13842.17 (+135.44)



THE FACTS

Market cap: £17 billion.
Turnover: £3 billion.
Pre-tax profit: £823 million.
Employees: 27,000.
Overview: Reed Elsevier is a leading global player in the provision of "must have" professional and business-to-business information. It is particularly strong in scientific and legal publishing, both hard copy and online, and it also has a significant travel information business.

THE BOARD

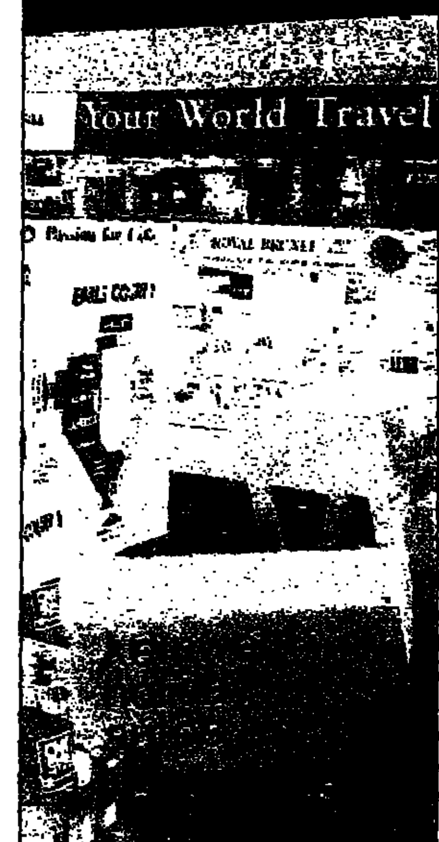
The current board reflects the fact that the company is in transition from the dual structure put in place after the 1993 merger of Reed International and Elsevier.

To prepare for the change in April, **David Webster**, the Safeway chairman, has been appointed interim non-executive chairman. He will then give way to **Morris Tabaksblat**, currently chairman and chief executive of Unilever, who joined the Reed Elsevier board last year. Mr Tabaksblat will also succeed **Pierre Vinken** as chairman of the Elsevier supervisory board in April, when Mr Vinken reaches the statutory retirement age.

Herman Bruggink and **Nigel Stapleton** are to stand down as co-chairmen and become co-chief executive officers. A global search is under way to find a single chief executive.

Other members of the executive committee include **John Mellon**, a director of Reed International since 1990, and **Mark Armour**, the chief financial officer, who will serve on the boards of the two parent groups from April. The other executive directors are **Neville Cusworth**, chairman of the Reed Elsevier legal division; **Herman Spruijt**, chairman of Elsevier Science; and **Onno Laman Trip**, director of human resources.

Apart from Mr Tabaksblat, Mr Webster and Mr Vinken, the non-executive directors include **Richard Bodman**, managing partner of AT&T Ventures; **Sir Christopher Lewinton**, chairman of TI Group; **Loek van Vollenhoven**, deputy chairman of the Elsevier board since 1995; **Steven Perrick**, partner in De Brau Blackstone Westbroek, the Dutch law firm; and **Rolf Stomberg**, former head of BP Oil and chairman designate of John Mowlem.






Show time: Reed Elsevier, which holds exhibitions worldwide tied in to its business magazines, faces restructuring at the highest level. Nigel Stapleton, currently co-chairman, left, and Mark Armour, chief financial officer, will soon be working under the sole chairmanship of Morris Tabaksblat, far right

At Reed Elsevier, the international professional and business information group, the executives could be forgiven for wishing that 2000 comes as quickly as possible. At the very least they must be grateful that 1998 is over.

The kindest thing that can be said about Reed Elsevier at the moment is that managerially, technologically and commercially last year was one of transition, a year in which investments in the future have been made but not yet recouped and in which uncertainty hung over the company and its share price like a cloud.

As a result, the British half of the Anglo-Dutch group, Reed International, underperformed the FTSE 100 by about 35 per cent and was the sixth-worst performer. Elsevier fared, if anything, slightly worse on the Amsterdam bourse.

"Just when you think things can't any get worse they spin downwards again," says a disappointed media analyst who, like many of the company's short-term critics, is still a medium-term supporter of the company's strategy of leaving the world of consumer publishing far behind and concentrating on high-margin professional publishing, such as scientific journals.

Reed Elsevier suffered currency problems, now easing, like many other international groups, and the Far East economic crisis took its toll. There was, for example, a sudden lack of appetite in South Korea for paying expensive scientific journal subscriptions in advance.

But Reed suffered a much wider variety of buffetings and setbacks, many unrelated. The collapse of the merger with Wolters Kluwer, apparently because of potential regulatory problems in Brussels, was followed by problems in the Reed Travel Group.

The company admits it was slow to invest in online travel products and is now reconciled to serving the hard-copy and CD-Rom section of the market. The compensation programme for advertisers who suffered from "irregularities" involving circulation claims by a number of Reed Travel publications led to an exceptional charge of £230 million.

The uncertainty increased in August, when the company announced that it planned to move to a unitary structure with a single non-executive chairman and a new sole chief executive. The group's co-chairmen, Herman Bruggink, a traditional hard-copy publisher, and Nigel Stapleton, 13 years with the company after 18 years in Unilever, both said that they did not want to be considered for the new chief executive role. The new structure, although ultimately sensible, if only to stop squabbling and tension between some of the British and Dutch non-executive directors, appeared to create a temporary vacuum.

There were worries about Thomson's Westlaw taking market share from Reed's Lexis Nexus database system, but above all there were short-term City concerns about the investing of tens of millions of pounds on moving to electronic delivery systems, particularly ScienceDirect, the online scientific information service that will have 1,200 journals loaded this year.

For many, the final straw came with last month's statement admitting that trading conditions in some of Reed Elsevier's markets had become more difficult in the past few months and that pre-tax profits were likely to be about £770 million, some 6 per cent less than last year's figure.

The trading statement did not go down well. Credit Suisse First Boston headlined its note: "Reed Elsevier: The Ugly Duckling." Under the headline "Disappointed", Bankers Trust said that the company had continued what appeared to be a three-year trend of giving disappointing news in its year-end trading statements.

As Mr Stapleton has conceded privately, there is enough black paint around for a black picture to be painted if that is what people want to do.

In fact, the Reed Elsevier co-chairman is very positive about Reed's future. However, he concedes that "a number of one-off factors in 1998" have tended to obscure what he regards as good performances in the base businesses. He concedes that uncertainties about whether the electronic publishing strategy would pay off, whether the travel business could be stabilised and over who would be chief executive in the new unitary structure have acted as a depressant on the share price. Mr Stapleton says: "During the course of 1999 we would expect those uncertainties to be addressed in a positive way, which ought to impact on the share price even before performance factors start to flow."

He acknowledges the pressure to produce returns, but notes that there is little evidence anywhere else that migration to electronic publishing can produce overnight miracles. "But it can bring attractive returns, particularly when you have the sort of brand franchises and content advantages that Reed Elsevier has," he adds.

A relatively small amount of good news could transform the present gloomy perceptions of Reed Elsevier. Though there are no current talks outside normal business dealings, a merger with Wolters Kluwer cannot be ruled out for ever. Reed executives note a softening of attitudes in Brussels and the determination of Havas and Bertelsmann to grow in the professional business publishing market should increase competition and reduce the apparent dominance a Reed Elsevier/Wolters Kluwer tie-up would create.

Even if that deal can never be resurrected, Reed still sees a number of possible acquisition targets and has plenty of balance sheet capacity to pursue them.

And anyway, as analysts hint darkly, if the management of Reed Elsevier cannot unlock the undoubted value in the company, then someone else can. In reality, Reed Elsevier, with separate quotes in London and Amsterdam, would not be an obvious target for a hostile takeover.

Although there is a technology agreement in place with Microsoft, it is a little fanciful to see the US software group playing the role of corporate saviour for Reed Elsevier. That is likely to come from less romantic and more old-fashioned virtues such as getting the management structure right and making sure the strategy already in place — which is widely admired even by some of the company's more astringent critics — is properly implemented.

Quite simply, the claim that the three core Reed Elsevier businesses are performing well is almost certainly true. The position of Reed Travel has been stabilised and the division has been more closely integrated into business publishing. It should remain a strong cash cow for the foreseeable future.

The company's scientific division had revenues of £571 million and operating profits of £230 million in 1997 — a 40 per margin and a 66 per cent return on capital invested. Despite such attractive margins, it will be very difficult for competitors to challenge the company's market-leading journals in the physical, life and social sciences — above all because of the importance to scientists of peer review and ensuring that their papers appear in the right journals.

The investment in the move to electronic distribution was vital to protect those high margins. In 2000 analysts are looking for revenues of about £700 million and operating profits in the region of £300 million from scientific.

The acquisition of the legal publisher Matthew Bender should help Reed Elsevier to compete more effectively with Westlaw, as will the launch of a number of new legal products on the Internet this year.

The company scores well with Crisp Consulting, the specialist consultancy, on boardroom pay. Mr Stapleton's experience justifies his remuneration of £828,000, even though his responsibilities are diffused by a complex management structure, which also gives rise to an excessive number of non-executive directors.

However, on ethical expression it fares less well. According to Integrity Works, the independent consultant, the company apparently has no statement of business principles — "a surprising omission" — and its other forms of ethical expression are short of best practice.

Above all, what Reed Elsevier needs now is time and patient investors to see whether it really can deliver on the promises made. Although it appears that the gloom has been considerably overdone, the only certainty is that we will not know for sure until the next millennium.

RAYMOND SNODDY

"Will the costly period of investment in electronic publishing have the desired impact in terms of accelerated revenue growth? The answer, I think, is it will, but it won't manifest itself until the year 2000. We are maintaining our neutral rating despite the recent profits warning."

Richard Dale, Salomon Smith Barney

"The golden scenario for this year is that a new chief executive will come in and make announcements about the company and there will be a Pearson-type re-rating. It is much more likely that a new manager will take six or nine months settling in, there will be drift and increasingly people will question the investment in electronic products."

Paul Richards, West LB Panmure

Ethical expression¹ 2/10
Fat-cat quotient² 8/10
Financial record 7/10
Share performance 6/10
Attitude to staff 6/10
Strength of brand 8/10
Innovation 8/10
Annual report 7/10
City star rating 6/10
Future prospects 9/10
Total 67/100

¹Ethical expression is evaluated by ¹Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by ²Crisp Consulting.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	43.70	AFA Systems	108½	...	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	.	9.2	7.1
157½	127½	8.29	ATA Group	127½	...	2.0	10.0
271	175	29.40	Access Plus	175	...	3.6	14.7
57½	45½	6.14	AdVal Group	46½	..	..	8.0
7¼	3¼	3.92	African Gold	3¾	..	..	...
96½	36½	31.50	Albemarle & Bd	71	+ 8½	1.8	19.3
43½	24½	10.70	Allzone	30	...	..	...
102½	42½	8.88	Ambient Media	46½	...	.	..
325	88½	6.77	Ambishus Pub Co	107½	+ 1	..	...
106½	96½	35.00	Anglo Siberi Oil	95½	− 1	..	..
119	72½	3.07	Anglo-Welsh	99	..	3.8	8.1
117½	72½	56.30	Antonov	72½	...	...	..
110½	85½	17.80	Aortech	87½	...	...	...



BP denies falling oil price will cost 1,000 UK jobs

By Our City Staff

BRITISH PETROLEUM yesterday denied that the collapse in the oil price would cost 1,000 jobs in its UK operations.

The British oil major, which has been catapulted into the mega-majors with its £33 billion takeover of Amoco of the US, making it the largest company on the London Stock Exchange, said it is not expecting heavy job losses in its North Sea operations.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "When the merger with Amoco was announced last August we said that 6,000 jobs would go, but that most of these would be in the States. As a consequence of falling oil prices this number may be slightly higher, but any job losses will still be concentrated in the US."

He added that, in comparison, job losses in the UK would be "fairly small".

BP currently employs nearly 3,500 people in its exploration and production arm. Most of these jobs are based in Aberdeen.

Reports have suggested that numbers may be cut by up to 40 per cent. BP, however, denied that there would be mass redundancies in the UK over coming months.

Fears were sparked after the price of Brent crude oil collapsed to its lowest level for 12 years, falling below the $10 level.

With weak demand for oil and overproduction, the industry has seen considerable consolidation over the past year as a means of controlling and reducing costs.

Other big mergers, such as those between Exxon and Mobil and Total and Petrofina, are likely to result in job cuts, both in the UK and abroad.

Amerada Hess, Lasmo, Enterprise Oil, Texaco and Shell have already announced job cuts in the UK.

The company also denied reports that it could write off about £2 billion from its oil assets when it announces its 1998 results next month. A spokesman for the company said: "This is complete rubbish."



New Deal on offer in the high-tech jobcentre at Brixton Hill, South London, where job-seekers locate posts by computer

New Deal is accused of ignoring small firms

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

SMALL COMPANIES are virtually being ignored by the New Deal, the Government's programme to reduce unemployment, according to a survey for the Federation of Small Businesses.

The federation believes that unless things improve, the national network of jobcentres responsible for implementing the Government's flagship scheme might as well be privatised.

Researchers found that jobcentres had contacted only 15 per cent of the 1,800 small and medium-sized businesses questioned in the survey. The study also found that some smaller companies complained that they were sent poor calibre candidates, while 44 per cent said that confusion was the worst feature of the New Deal.

The federation says that jobcentres should be privatised if they cannot provide a better service for employers wishing to join the Government's unemployment initiative.

The organisation, which represents 125,000 businesses, thinks that smaller companies are losing out on the scheme, which gives employers a subsidy of up to £75 a week for New Deal workers.

Dr Bernard Juby, the federation's employment spokesman, said: "The findings of the survey suggest new impetus is needed to get the New Deal working for small businesses. Although it is early days for the scheme, a time limit should be given to get things running smoothly.

"If it cannot make the grade, the Employment Service has prime high street locations which would be attractive to the private sector."

The Government launched the New Deal soon after coming to power to find work for the long-term young jobless, but the scheme has since been extended to older people.

The Department for Education and Employment denied that the Employment Service was failing smaller businesses over the New Deal. A spokesman said that the federation's comments were "at odds with their own survey, which was in key aspects encouraging".

He said: "More than 35,000 employers have now signed to New Deal and the overwhelming majority of those are small and medium-sized enterprises. Business satisfaction with New Deal and New Deal recruits is one of the core measures on which we are evaluating the performance of the programme and continuously driving forward to improve standards."

The Government said that its research showed that 82 per cent of smaller companies that had contacted the New Deal information line were pleased, very pleased or extremely pleased by their experience.

Caradon close to agreeing sale of Everest

By Caroline Merrell

CARADON, the struggling building materials group, is poised to sell its Everest double-glazing subsidiary to the privately owned Bardox Group, based in Manchester.

Bardox, which specialises in home improvements, is also interested in buying Caradon's other doors and windows manufacturing division. It is believed to have bid about £40 million for the divisions.

Caradon announced in September that it planned to sell off its Everest subsidiary in an attempt to refocus the company on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised chequebooks.

Jurgen Hintz, chief executive, who took charge just over a year ago, decided that Everest, along with three other subsidiaries — Caradon doors and windows, Catnic, a steel lintels business and Terrain plastic piping — did not fit with Caradon's future strategy. The doors and windows business posted profits of only £100,000 in the first half of last year. Warburg Dillon Read was asked to carry out the sale of the four subsidiaries.

Bardox was set up a decade ago and had sales of £85 million last year. Two years ago, 3i, the venture capital firm, bought a 20 per cent stake in Bardox, with the aim of building it up to become a leader in the home improvements market. Caradon's pre-tax profits were £53.7 million, while operating profits fell from £65 million to £63 million.

It is thought that Caradon believes that selling Everest and the doors and windows manufacturing division separately from the two other divisions will raise more money.

Caradon's shares have been tumbling in value since 1994. Mr Hintz believes that one of the group's problems has been its strategy of charging a premium price for simple items such as boilers, wiring boxes, and door bells. These are lines that tend to be affected by cheap imports.

Buyers for the other two businesses are expected to be finalised shortly.

Moment of truth for retailers in the spotlight

Retailers will this week start to do their final count of Christmas takings and begin telling investors whether trade was as bad as it seemed.

The first post-Christmas trading statement is due today from Goldsmiths, the jeweller. It will be followed by Littlewoods, the privately owned catalogue and high street retailer, on Thursday. The bulk of trading statements are due next week and the week after.

Retailers complained almost unanimously in the run-up to Christmas that trade had been hit by a sharp downturn in consumer confidence, and many began their winter sales a week or so early, some before Christmas Day. This means that even if the volume of sales rose, profits will have suffered.

One of the most eagerly awaited trading statements will be from Marks & Spencer, but it is unlikely to come out before the week beginning January 25. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that sales had "fallen off a cliff" in November, and described the clothing market as "a bloodbath".

Sales pitch: early opening

Trade is not thought to have improved since, and the company has taken what for it is the almost revolutionary step of resorting to television advertising to attract customers to its winter sale.

Next, which appears to have been doing relatively well, was one of the first to make a trading statement last January, but it may well hold off for a few days this time.

Many retailers have been relucant to set the date for their trading statement, hoping to choose the best moment nearer the time. But Signet, the jewellers, Selfridges and Boots have indicated that they will issue theirs next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Kingfisher (Comet, Superdrug, Woolworths and B&Q), Sears (Wallis, Warehouse, Richards and Freemans), House of Fraser, Laura Ashley and Austin Reed are likely to come out in the same week, as will Dixons (Dixons, PC World and Currys), which has results to announce. Debenhams will issue its statement the following Tuesday.

Sears will be watched particularly closely because Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur who has made two informal offers for the group, has said he will wait until he sees the group's Christmas trading statement before deciding on his next move. Freemans, the Sears catalogue company, is believed by analysts to have been through a particularly tough time.

Arcadia, the company behind Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Miss Selfridge and Burton Menswear, which was punished by the market for a surprise profits warning just three weeks before Christmas, is another company with a lot to prove. It is likely to issue an update on trading to coincide with its annual meeting on January 21.

Richard Hyman, chairman of the Verdict retail consultancy, said he expects this to emerge as the worst Christmas for retailers for years. He said that early indications were that the January sales will also turn out to be something of a damp squib. "I don't see how the January sales are going to be fantastic," he said. "They'll be okay, because they've got to be, because Christmas trading was so bad.

"I'm not sure that a lot of consumers are being that easily motivated by the lowering of prices. For a lot of them, going to a shopping centre like Lakeside is just a day out."

The only retailer so far to indicate how Christmas went has been John Lewis, which issues weekly figures. It said that after a very slow start to the month it expects to see December come out flat against last year. However, it has opened a new store during the year, at Cribb's Causeway in Bristol, and December is likely to have seen a disappointing fall in like-for-like sales.

Sarah Cunningham

Germany quells talk of VAT rise

From a Correspondent in Bonn

THE GERMAN Government yesterday moved quickly to quell reports that it is planning to raise the value-added tax rate in the country by two percentage points.

Reports in the German press said that Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrat-led coalition planned to raise VAT to cover a multibillion mark gap in the country's budget.

The reports, citing sources in both federal and regional governments, said Bonn needed extra cash to cover the cost of corporate tax reforms and measures to fight unemployment. The Government would justify the rises by saying they were needed to harmonise sales taxes within the European Union, it was claimed.

A German Finance Ministry spokesman said the report, in the Bild am Sonntag newspaper, was complete fiction. "There are no plans to raise value-added tax, and we do not need to do so to finance government spending plans."

The European Commission has proposed VAT rates in the EU should be between 17 and 21 per cent, instead of the current 15 to 25 per cent range. Germany's rate is 16 per cent.

Bill Gates may bid for BT television franchise

By Robert Lea

WESTMINSTER CABLE, arguably Britain's most prestigious cable television franchise, could end up under the ownership of Bill Gates, the computing multibillionaire.

British Telecom is preparing to auction its two cable franchises — Westminster and another in Milton Keynes — ahead of the launch of its interactive television home shopping and banking joint venture with British Sky Broadcasting, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

The main bidders expected to line up for the two franchises are the cable TV operators Cable & Wireless Communications, Telewest Communications and NTL, which recently made an offer for Newcastle United.

However, it has emerged that Bill Gates's Microsoft may bid for the franchises, which would not only give Mr Gates his first presence in UK cable television, but also give him a foothold in television Internet access to British homes.

BT is selling the franchises as a condition of its 32.5 per cent stake in British Interactive Broadcasting in the consortium with BSkyB, HSBC, the banking group, and Panasonic, the Japanese electronics group. It has to do a deal by the spring, by which time BiB is expected to be ready to launch.

BT, which is being advised by Hawkpoint, the corporate finance boutique manned by former NatWest executives, could raise hundreds of millions of pounds from the sale because of the unique nature of Westminster Cable. Its potential viewing customers include not only MPs but also some of the smartest addresses in the capital.

Neither BT nor Microsoft was prepared to comment yesterday. Investment in cable television, however, would not be new to Microsoft, which bought a stake in Comcast in the US in 1997.

A sale to Microsoft is also likely to suit BT, which already has a partnership with Mr Gates's company through its WebTV Internet television venture in the UK. It would mean not having to sell out to the other British cable operators, who rival BT in the UK telephony market.



Bill Gates may gain a foothold in television Internet in the UK

AIM hopes for brighter 1999

By Fraser Nelson

INVESTORS are hoping the Alternative Investment Market can recover from its disastrous performance in 1998, when it suffered its sharpest setback.

Since the market was set up in July 1995, its stocks have dominated the top ten risers of the following years — with about an equal representation among the losers. This year, the AIM managed only three of the top ten performers and dominated the hall of shame.

Its best shot was Independent Energy Holdings, which came to the market two years ago to profit from deregulation of electricity. It now supplies some 800 companies, and the City decided to take it seriously this year as it started to win contracts. This took the shares up a staggering 292 per cent.

Next best was Fieldens, which until recently was a sleepy agricultural concern supplying tractor tyres. Derek Bonham, the former Hanson chief executive, bought a 29.9 per cent stake at 23p and said he would make serious acquisitions. The shares, which started the year at 26½p, more than trebled soon afterwards.

However, the AIM's losers were even more spectacular. Investors in Selector lost 94 per cent of their holding over the year as the Israeli company — which makes a Fob Stop device that prevents beer dregs flowing from a dead barrel — failed to resolve its cash crisis.

Sibir Energy's only asset was stakes in oil companies that hope to do business in Western Siberia. Hopes of it making any sort of money from Russia collapsed over the year and the shares lost 91 per cent of their value.

The same fate befell Northern Petroleum, which used to pride itself on a 35 per cent option over a North Russia oil explorer. The economic concerns sent its shares down 90 per cent.

Analysts say that the AIM's problem is that still it lacks liquidity. Quite often the prices quoted are theoretical because no one is actually buying or selling.

Also, it openly bills itself as the riskiest bourse in London. This does not appeal to investors who have been stung by the sort of crash seen in July. Their confidence is slowly recovering, but they prefer the security of the FTSE 100 to taking a punt on the AIM.

Better conditions with the fully listed markets will need to continue longer before the recovery seeps back into the high-risk Alternative Investment Market. Only then will it have a better chance of delivering the "high-reward" part of the equation that has been missing for the best part of this year.

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Expect a better sort of recession



ROGER BOOTLE

The pause that refreshes or another dire recession? We all expect 1999 to be a bad year, but the question is how bad. Forget the idea of a gentle slowdown. It is going to be much worse than that. The experts have been revising down their projections for ages now. Shave a bit off this month, then trim a bit more next, and after a few months the forecast will be much lower without getting out of step with others, and without anyone noticing that you got it hopelessly wrong in the first place. When the forecasters are playing that game, it pays to jump straight to the end result — recession.

In my view, the UK will find itself in technical recession this year, that is to say, there will be two consecutive quarters of negative growth. It will have been brought on principally by the lagged effects of super-strong sterling, and compounded by the weakness of markets in Asia. The consequent squeeze in manufacturing will result in lower investment spending and reductions in stocks. This will be compounded by the softness of consumer spending as people start to fear for their jobs in response to a rise in unemployment.

Yet this does not amount to a return to a familiar pattern. The past three serious recessions have been characterised by profound structural weaknesses which the shortfall of demand has laid bare. The recession of the mid-1970s, which was ostensibly brought on by the first oil crisis, hit a corporate sector that was overmanned and badly managed, and an economy ravaged by rampant inflation and appalling industrial relations. By the time that the combination of the second oil crisis and the Thatcher Government's adoption of sado-monetarism delivered another cold shower in 1980-81, not much improvement had occurred. During the 1980s, however, the management of businesses improved markedly.

True, this did not stop the recession of 1990-91, but this was the direct result of the consumer boom of the late 1980s. Consumers had gone mad, driving up house prices to absurd levels and borrowing as if there were no tomorrow. The result was the need to impose 15 per cent interest rates on consumers weighed down with debt. Add in an overvalued currency tied to the European exchange-rate mechanism and you had the makings of another macroeconomic disaster.

Yet the improvement in the underlying position of British companies meant that when the interest rate and exchange rate squeeze came off in September 1992, Britain was able to enjoy a sustained expansion accompanied by only moderate inflation, amounting to the most successful period for the British economy since the war.

Now recession beckons again. This time, though, the corporate sector is, on the whole, well managed. Balance sheets are sound and profits high. Moreover, consumers have not been on a binge and their debts are reasonable. Nor, outside Central London, have house prices been pushed to ridiculous levels. Meanwhile, the public finances are extremely sound. Whisper it, lest you be thought complacent — the British economy is actually in rather good shape.

Moreover, inflation is set to fall further, to perhaps 1.5 per cent by the end of the year. Is there a danger that this decline will go too far and that consumers and businesses will anticipate falling prices and therefore put off purchases? I defer to no one in warning of the seriousness of the deflation danger, but, for 1999 at least, this bugbear should surely pass Britain by. The starting level of inflation is simply too high and pay is rising too fast for the change in psychology to occur so quickly.

Even so, the Monetary Policy Committee will be scurrying to protect its reputation against the charge that, having partly precipitated the downturn, it then failed to see its seriousness before it was too late. Meanwhile, in euroland, the ECB is already under pressure to cut rates from the starting level of 3.3 per cent. If, as I expect, the euro is strong on the exchanges, then the MPC will have to keep cutting rates to stop the pound from being dragged up sharply against the dollar.

Interest rates are in a powerful downtrend which, in my view, will take them to levels unseen for a generation — back to where they began before the inflationary genie escaped from the bottle. Since 1981, each successive trough of the interest rate cycle has been lower than the previous one. Indeed, the most recent peak, namely 7.5 per cent, was exactly equal to the low point reached in the middle of the Lawson boom. The last trough, when Kenneth Clarke was Chancellor, was 5.25 per cent. Rates are now surely destined to fall well below that. Older readers will recall that the Bank rate was set at 2 per cent between 1932 and 1951. By the end of this year, base rates may be down to 4 per cent, but the bottom of this interest rate cycle may ultimately be below 3 per cent.

So much for 1999. Doubtless you'll by now be wanting to know about next year. Will this year's downturn continue or will it be followed by a recovery? If there is one thing you should never forecast, it is the future. So, for once, I am going to give a typical economist's answer — it all depends. But what it depends upon is profoundly significant. It depends upon how serious the world situation becomes and whether deflationary psychology has started, by then, to get a grip. It will not turn on a crisis at home in either the corporate sector or the public finances. After all that we have gone through, that is, as the football pundits would say, "a result".

A patent need to nurture our promising inventors

Trevor Baylis, the inventor who created the clockwork radio, which operates without electricity or batteries, makes a plea for wider support for a new Academy of Invention in Britain



Trevor Baylis, in the workshop where he devised wind-up radios, wants an academy to help seemingly crazy ideas to become products

For many years, I have campaigned for an Academy of Invention in Britain. A place where you and I may go for the encouragement, help and resources to turn a seemingly wildcat, crazy idea into a product or process that will benefit us all.

Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, seemed to have grasped this notion quite well. His recent address to Parliament made this clear, but, alas, he has now left the Department of Trade and Industry and a newcomer has taken over. My concern is obvious. Do I have to start all over again with the new minister? How long do we all have to wait for help?

It is not widely known that when you apply for a patent you have only 12 months before you have to find extraordinary sums of money just to keep open the possibility of securing your intellectual property outside of the UK.

Believe me, 12 months is not very long. I have now been waiting five years for help. How many inventors with promising ideas have gone to the wall in that time? As individuals, we do not have all the skills needed to bring an idea or process to the marketplace. An academy would be there to do just that.

The deal is simply this: viable projects will be undertaken by the academy on the understanding that, when the product or process is sold or licensed, the academy will share in the rewards. This income will, in time, serve to maintain the academy and make it cost-effective. It is not the intention for the academy to give monies to projects, but to spend money on projects on behalf of the inventor. We provide the expertise and resources to ensure that the project is fully protected and safely brought to the marketplace.

In discussion with Lord Puttnam, chairman of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta), I found him extremely encouraging. Nesta can be approached for funding for certain projects and the organisation will give assistance within its remit. Unfortunately, money to help us to start up cannot be obtained through this route. When we approached the DTI for funds, it referred us back to Nesta, also suggesting that co-operation with the Institute of Patentees and Inventors (IPI) would assist.

Discussions with them are ongoing, but it is not easy. That organisation was formed some 78 years ago and I have supported it faithfully for many years. The academy must be self-supporting and I am unsure whether the change of gear that would be necessary for the IPI to run with it would be acceptable to the present IPI members who control it.

The Government should have involvement in the scheme because the academy is about people. If our inventive citizens are to benefit and become successful, the most effective way would be with government support with a view to creating an independent body. This would not only help inventors to bring their ideas to fruition, but also to protect them from being exploited and losing control of their ideas, and, more often than not, failing to be rewarded properly.

It is important that the Government shares financially in the success of the academy, but it will do so by the process of personal and corporate taxation of the successes. Is it too much to ask that in order to do so it should allocate some of the £200 million that the DTI spends on its own Innovation Unit to the "people's academy"? Academy funding will also come from industry and from its members, but that comes later as we grow. It must always be accountable and, preferably, be run as a charitable organisation. The name of the game is to break even in each financial year.

We have already found willing support from a wide variety of persons and bodies, including members of both Houses of Parliament, many firms and individuals concerned with innovation, various academic institutions and societies, banks, businesses and individual inventors.

Just as art is taught in schools, so it is essential that invention is taught in our schools. Youngsters should have an understanding of their own intellectual capacity and their ability to create intellectual property.

We can teach the history of invention and what has befallen inventors in the past, the importance of the Patent Office and what services it provides, how to do market research, how to work on business plans and how to work on a prototype and resolve technical problems.

Extraordinary camaraderie exists between inventors, and those who become successful because of an academy would, I know, stand with newcomers to the academy to help them in their hour of need. Never again should a person feel ashamed or awkward in saying he or she is an inventor. After all, if you can solve a problem, you are on the way to becoming an inventor.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.79	2.62
Austria Sch	20.60	18.94
Belgium Fr	60.62	55.66
Canada $	2.686	2.498
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8711	0.7996
Denmark Kr	11.17	10.28
Egypt	5.85	5.24
Finland Mkk	9.01	8.26
France Fr	9.81	9.03
Germany Dm	2.948	2.706
Greece Dr	493	454
Hong Kong $	13.67	12.47
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	16504	11504
Ireland Pt	1.1737	1.0847
Israel Shk	7.25	6.59
Italy Lira	2931	2694
Japan Yen	203.54	186.11
Malta	0.661	0.602
Netherlds Gld	3.329	3.034
New Zealand $	3.27	3.03
Norway Kr	13.23	12.29
Portugal Esc	297.68	275.65
S Africa Rd	10.39	9.43
Spain Pta	248.16	229.37
Sweden Kr	14.24	13.14
Switzerland Fr	2.444	2.226
Turkey Lira	538606	502806
USA $	1.765	1.622

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on December 31.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Farming put in a spin

Against the Grain
BBC2, 7.30pm

Oliver Walston presents a four-part series in which he says the unthinkable, at least where most of his fellow farmers are concerned. It is that the subsidy to British agriculture, currently £4 billion a year, should be ended, leaving the market to supply and demand. Although himself the recipient of a £180,000 annual cheque from the taxpayer, Walston says the system is crazy and has turned farmers into subsidy junkies. He has support from Sean Rickard, former economist to the National Farmers Union who argues that subsidies raise the price of land and make farmers dependent. Walston's proposal is less well received by Michael Hart, who struggles to make a living from a tiny dairy farm in Cornwall. Walston is sympathetic but unmoved. If small farmers are subsidised, why not corner shops and hairdressers?

The Vice
ITV, 9.00pm

A new police series needs to have a very good excuse for entering an overcrowded field. The justification for The Vice, an audience-grabbing title if ever there was one, is that no other police show is concentrating on prostitutes, pimps and pornography. Episode one offers all of that, with a rape and a murder thrown in. But against such cynicism it must also be granted that in its grubby chosen area this is an efficient piece of television, with writing, camerawork and acting up to standard. As Inspector Chappel, the admirable Ken Stott leads a team which includes David Harewood, the National Theatre's Othello, and Caroline Catz, seen recently as a sexually harassed police officer in The Bill. Anna Chancellor, once of Kavanagh QC, is the police shrink destined to share the lonely Chappel's bed.

Mayday
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The team which treated us to series about plane and road crashes turns its attention to tragedies at sea. Like all such ventures, it tries to mitigate the potential for voyeurism by highlighting safety lessons. Programme one is about things that go wrong with seagoing for pleasure. But the main concern is with the terrible things that can happen on cruise liners. More and more people are taking cruises and more and more ships are catching fire. In the worst incident to date the *Scandinavian Star* went up in flames between Norway and Denmark with the loss of 158 lives. According to the inquiry, the ship was unfit to sail and the actions of the crew made matters worse. The programme says there is so little regulation that it could happen again.

Patrick Malahide as John Harrison in *The Search for Longitude* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Horizon Special: The Search for Longitude
BBC2, 9.30pm

A season of programmes exploring the history and uses of time opens with a deserved tribute to John Harrison, an Adam Hart-Davis *Local Hero* if ever there was one. Until Harrison, a man of the 18th century, there was no sure way that sailors could know the position of a ship on the high seas. Map makers had long since used grid lines of latitude and longitude to indicate points on the surface of the Earth. But only latitude was measurable. Enter, from a small village in Lincolnshire, John Harrison, carpenter and self-taught clockmaker. After four warships were wrecked off the Cornish coast in 1707, with the loss of 2,000 lives, Parliament offered a reward equal to £6 million today to anybody who could devise a means of finding longitude at sea. Harrison was convinced that the answer lay in clocks but it took him 43 years to prove it.
Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Benn's Gallery
Radio 4, 11.00am

Tony Benn has left his stamp on history. But for him, we wouldn't be in the happy position of being able to buy, *inter alia*, a David Hockney miniature for the price of a postage stamp. Until Benn became Postmaster-General in the 1960s, special issue stamps were few and far between. Now, something like a billion commemorative stamps are printed every year, and *Benn's Gallery* entertainingly graphs the innovation's highs and lows. There's a good yarn about a stamp design showing the importance of water. One artist came up with the picture of a lavatory with the seat up. The Queen appeared to be looking down into the basin. The design was rejected in favour of a picture of a domestic tap.

Afternoon Play: Enoch Arden
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Andrew Sachs's exemplary reading of Tennyson's lengthy narrative poem raises the question: isn't it gilding the lily when someone adds music to words that already have music in them? I never approved of it when Jim Parker's tunes were stitched into John Betjeman's recorded readings of his verse. Nor was I won over by it when William Walton composed music for Edith Sitwell's *Façade*. Tennyson's *Enoch Arden* tells the story of a shipwrecked sailor who returns home after ten years to find his wife married to his rival for her affections. I urge you to read this poem for yourself. Then ask yourself whether Richard Strauss's piano music, played by Victor Sangiorgio, is an aid or a hindrance.
Peter Davalle

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Lamacq Live. Featuring the Manic Street Preachers recorded live in Cardiff 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Special 8.30 Georgie Fame. New four-part series 9.30 In the Days Before Rock 'n' Roll. Frank Skinner presents a four-part series looking at records made before 1955 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Lynn Parsons 3.00am Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Football Legends. Jimmy Armfield talks to Kevin Keegan 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Commentary on tonight's tie in the FA Cup third round 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night. Includes an update on Australia v England in the fifth Test

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hain 7.30 Harriet Scott 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton & Sally Meen 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Gordon Astley

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Colombia 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Newstalk 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Record News 9.30 Westway Access 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Jazzmatazz 12.00pm News 12.05 World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Planet 2000 3.00 World News; (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 Electronic Jukebox 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 Insight; (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Top Brain; (648 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack: Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Tying the Knot 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Hit List 12.00am Newsdesk 12.30 Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Wild Tales 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Watershed 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites 2.00 Concerto. Kabalevsky (Cello Concerto No 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Dvorak (String Quartet No 12 in F); Suk (Serenade for String Orchestra; Praga); Smetana (Hakon Jarl); Dvorak (Silent Woods No 5) 11.00 Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

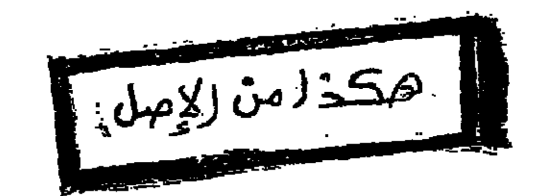
RADIO 3

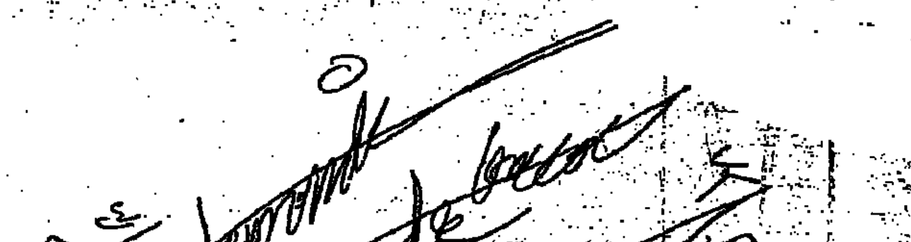
6.00am **On Air** with Stephanie Hughes. Sibelius (Karelia Suite); Berlioz (L'enfance du Christ — Overture to Part 2: Shepherds' Farewell)
9.00 **Masterworks** with Peter Hobday. Beethoven (Rondo a Capriccio in G, Op 129, Rage over a Lost Penny); Verdi (Macbeth — Witches' Chorus and Ballet); Rameau (Tambourin)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau** Joan Bakewell talks to the German baritone
11.00 **Sound Stories: Five Painters — Leonardo da Vinci** with Donald Macleod
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Francis Poulenc**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Nikolai Demidenko plays Chopin's celebrated set of 24 Preludes and a selection of etudes-tableaux by Rachmaninov
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras** BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth and Grant Llewellyn, with Anu Komsi, soprano
4.00 **Opera in Action** Robert Lloyd takes over as presenter
4.45 **Music Machine** with Tommy Pearson
5.00 **In Tune** To celebrate the centenary of Francois Poulenc this week, Sean Rafferty talks to jazz musicians about the influence of the composer
7.30 **Performance on 3: Howard Ferguson at 90** Philip Martin, piano, Christopher Maltman, baritone, Ulster Orchestra, under Adrian Leaper. Howard Ferguson (Overture for an Occasion); Finzi, orch Ferguson (The Fall of the Leaf); Ferguson (Piano Concerto; Two Ballads); Finzi (Let Us Garlands Bring); Ferguson (Partita)
9.15 **Postscript: Fictuality — One Giant Leap** by Sue Teddern. Five dramatic monologues that combine fiction and a news story (r)
9.35 **Milstein Plays Bach** Nathan Milstein performs Bach (Violin Sonata No 2 in A minor, BWV1003)
10.00 **Voices** Iain Burnside introduces a specially recorded programme of music by Brahms and by those composing under his influence. Katarina Kameus, mezzo, William Dazeley, baritone
10.45 **Mixing It** with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
11.30 **Jazz Notes** Alyn Shipton presents a three-part concert featuring young jazz musicians
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens** (r)
1.00am **Through the Night** with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Arthur Grumiaux Trio. Mozart (Piano Trio in B flat, K502); Ravel (Piano Trio in A minor); Saint-Saens (Piano Trio No 2 in E minor, Op 92) 2.30 Antonin Liehmann (Mass in D minor) 4.10 Martinu (La Revue de Cuisine) 4.35 Kraus (Symphony in C minor, Symphonie Funebre)

RADIO 4

5.30am **(FM) World News**
5.30 **(LW) Test Match Special** Australia v England. Further coverage of the fifth Test in Sydney
5.35 **(FM) Shipping 5.40 (FM) Inshore Forecast**
5.45 **(FM) Prayer for the Day with Lavinia Byrne**
6.00 **(FM only until 7.00am) Today** Includes a progress report on how the Euro is trading against other currencies
9.00 **Start the Week** with Jeremy Paxman
9.45 **(FM) Serial: The Vanished World** Philip Franks begins a five-part reading from the autobiography of H.E. Bates
9.45 **(LW) Daily Service** With the Rawstorne Singers
10.00 **Woman's Hour** with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 **Benn's Gallery** See Choice
11.30 **My Gaiety Girls** A Sultan causes excitement at the Gaiety Theatre. Last in series
12.00 **(FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours** Consumer news and investigations, presented by Liz Barclay and John Waite
12.00 **(LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **The World at One** with Nick Clarke
1.30 **Counterpoint** General knowledge music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 **The Archers** (r)
2.15 **Afternoon Play: Enoch Arden** Alfred Lord Tennyson's Victorian tale of love, loss and sacrifice, recited by Andrew Sachs. See Choice
3.00 **Money Box Live** Vincent Duggleby answers listeners' letters on personal finance
3.30 **The Melting Pot** Tom Jaine meets centenarians in Bulgaria's isolated Rhodope Mountains
3.45 **This Sceptred Isle** The history of Britain in Sir Winston Churchill's words, read by Paul Eddington (r)
4.00 **The Food Programme** Derek Cooper investigates why some foods have fallen out of fashion while others continue to find favour (r)
4.30 **Turning World** with Jenni Murray and guests
5.00 **PM** with Clare English
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue** with Jeremy Hardy, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke-Taylor. Chaired by Humphrey Lyttelton
7.00 **The Archers** 7.15 **Front Row** Nightly arts review
7.45 **Under One Roof** by Michele Hanson (r)
8.00 **Dr Graham's Schools** Tim Jenkins sets off for Bengal to visit a school for Anglo-Indians established almost a century ago
8.30 **Analysis** Frances Cairncross asks whether the cult of "progress" for its own sake is losing momentum
9.00 **Nature: Insight** Howard Stableford investigates various theories about the origins of life on Earth
9.30 **Start the Week** (r)
10.00 **The World Tonight**
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Nana** Juliet Stevenson reads the first part of Emil Zola's novel
11.00 **Radio 4 Appeal** David Bellamy speaks on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts, a charity set up to fund conservation projects (r)
11.02 **Late Night on 4: Cheese Makes You Dream** Chilling drama by Kara Miller, winner of last year's Black Broadcast competition. With Charlotte Purton and Anna Niland
11.30 **Scaling the Mountain** The Scottish traditional musician Phil Cunningham reveals how he fought his way back to performing after a heart attack (r)
12.00 **(FM) News 12.30 (FM) The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts** Gavin Muir reads the sixth part of Magnus Mills' first novel
12.00 **(LW) Test Match Special** Australia v England. Coverage from Sydney of the fourth day's play in the Fifth Test
12.48 **(FM) Shipping** 1.00 **(FM) As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.





Sometimes silliness is the sensible option

Vic Reeves, in clown costume and bald wig, squeaked: "After you've had your supper and said prayers, how long is it before your hand slips down your pyjama bottoms?" Interviewee Damon Hill looked puzzled and answered that he didn't wear pyjamas.

As "The Stotts", two infantile circus clowns with their own chat-show, Reeves and Mortimer treat their guests with as little respect as Dennis Pennis ambushing celebrities and a good deal less than Mrs Merton. It would be nice to record that Hill took it in good part, but he didn't actually get the opportunity. He just sat there while they asked if his nose had been tested in a wind tunnel and if he took a map or just followed everybody else.

It was not the first hands-down-pants gag either. You don't have to have the mind of a pubertal boy to enjoy **Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer** (BBC2, Friday), but it helps. As the first show of their new series wore on, I realised that I must still have one myself. After three years of thigh-rubbing, stuffed, bear-hurling, Ulrika Jonsson-baiting, the revived sketch format was so completely silly from start to finish that it is quite difficult to explain why any of it is funny.

Occasionally there is a hint of satire, such as the mock docusoap about a sleazy Hull club where the host, Paul Baron, has Sellotaped ladies' knickers to the bar-stools for his "Erotic Night", or "Fun! Fun! Fun!", a sketch scathingly exposing seaside slot machines as tacky rip-offs. There's a touch of Post-Modernist something or other in the enormous Gilbert and George-style portraits which dominate the set.

But such glimpses of social observation and critical intelligence are completely irrelevant. Most of the material consists of the two of them beating each other's heads with huge frying pans, fake pistols and baseball bats or chopping down two trees which are blocking their car doors instead of driving past them. Reeves and Mortimer tap into something very basic and very ancient.

Being silly is, after all, a kind of freedom and they have an exuberance and self-confidence which found an unlikely echo in another new series which, in other respects, could hardly have been more different. In **My Dark Fathers** (Saturday, BBC2) the first of three *Irish Journeys*, the award-winning correspondent Fergal Keane revisited his upbringing in north Kerry and the family legacy of Irish nationalism.

It took a while to get going. Soulful opening shots of drizzly fields, traditional pipe music and poetry suggested we were in for a stiff shot of emerald mist. In fact it soon

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

gelled into a crisp and pungent account of Irish attitudes to British rule, to partition, to the past and to the grip of the Church.

Keane is from independent-minded stock. At 19 his grandmother carried guns for the volunteers in her bloomers. His author uncle decried the "priest-ridden" state the country became for a generation or two. Keane himself bemoaned the "tired nationalism ... the puritanical Catholicism ... suffering and guilt and darkness and shame".

It became an upbeat story of progress and hope, told through brief but resonant interviews. The account was doubtless partial, but Keane showed a freer, happier and more self-confident country with the fastest-growing economy in Europe, more optimistic and at ease with itself than ever before, secure enough to compromise with the Protestants over the future of the North.

The Irish, it seems, are looking forward to a bright future, so let us hope that they have actually got one and are not about to be plunged into the Apocalypse with the rest of wicked, sinning humanity. A paradox of modern television is that, while much of it seems to be "dumbing down" faster than Vic Reeves can bash himself on the head with a frying pan, some documentaries attempt to cram more and more ideas into our heads at an ever faster rate.

Apocalypse When? (Channel 4, Sunday), an *Equinox* special, was one of the most ambitious and densely informative programmes that has ever assailed my cognitive functions. A little more structure, digestion and direction to the argument would have made it more satisfying to watch. But as they packed reasonably lucid explanations of the three-fold calendars of the Ancient Egyptians, the history of Christian calendars, atomic clocks and the slowing of the Earth's rotation, the origins of ideas of the Apocalypse, several doomsday cults and the millennium bug into 75 minutes, it seems churlish to complain.

Unfortunately they were no more able than anyone else to predict exactly how much confusion will be caused by the "Y2K problem", but we met a New York computer consultant called Peter de Jager who has been warning people about it since 1977. The members of the Bethel Gospel Assembly, also of New York, are pretty sure it's going to be catastrophic, however. This will suit them just fine.

They are good and ready for the arrival of the Antichrist, Whore of Babylon, Four Horsemen and all those other undesirables from the Book of Revelation, because assembly members will be included in something called "the Rapture". This means they will be swept up into Heaven with all the other true believers while the rest of us face the forces of evil, unable to programme our videos.

So it was reassuring to learn that the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ almost certainly passed uneventfully several years ago, and we can go back to hitting each other over the head with giant frying pans.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (49636)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (78075)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8909617)
9.45 The Vanessa Show New series. Vanessa Feltz presents a live show featuring fashion tips, celebrity interviews, and a chance for aspiring singers to get their break (T) (5445487)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (7231181)
11.00 Real Rooms (7321758)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7228617)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1444013)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (63094)
12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (98278)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (71162)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86932617)
1.40 Neighbours Anne and Amy fall out (T) (65612433)
2.05 Ironside Eve's judgement is called into question when a man she once let free is labelled the prime suspect in a multiple *murder enquiry (7905907)*
2.55 Going for a Song (8890162)
3.20 The Weather Show Contemporary weather stories (T) (2221013)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1275902) **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop (9307365) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (8731346) **4.10** Pocket Dragon Adventures (5720926) **4.20** Rugrats (6354029) **4.35** Misery Guts (1964549) **5.00** Newsround (5701278) **5.10** Blue Peter (6834433)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (591278)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (639)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (891)
7.00 This Is Your Life Michael Aspel surprises another unsuspecting guest with the big red book (T) (9948)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck New series. Alice Beer and Dr Mark Porter look into the alleged dangers of using mobile phones, putting phone shields and headsets to the test. Plus, how a change of diet could help ease the suffering of many of the country's diabetics (T) (425)
8.00 EastEnders Tiffany's death takes its toll on Frank (T) (9836)
8.30 Birds of a Feather Sharon and Tracey's lives are changed forever when their husbands leave for work and never return. First-ever episode of the comedy, starring Pauline Quirke (r) (T) (1471)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6907)
9.30 Paddington Green A transsexual prostitute blames frequent fines for soliciting force her back onto Paddington's streets, while a time-served wig-maker gives clients his honest *opinion (T) (40182)*
10.00 Bravo Two Zero Final part. The crack SAS troops face mounting odds deep behind Iraqi lines, as dauntless Sergeant Andy McNab attempts to lead them safely to the Syrian border. Sean Bean stars (2/2) (T) (552948)
10.55 Match Of the Day (21525568)
12.30am Havana (1990) Romantic drama, FILM starring Robert Redford as a gambler who tempts fate by getting involved with a rebel leader's wife in 1950s Cuba. With Lena Olin and Alan Arkin. Directed by Sidney Pollack (T) (6255389)
1.50 Weather (8429501)
1.55 BBC News 24 (75380327)

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BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Wiggly Park (9245015) **7.05** Teletubbies (2267452) **7.30** Yogi's Treasure Hunt (2567839) **7.59** To Me, To You (3122704) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9790704) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8475068) **8.55** Wiggly Park (6561926) **9.00** Romuald the Reindeer (7395742) **9.10** The Phil Silvers Show (6707549) **9.35** The Phil Silvers Show (5185075) **10.00** Teletubbies (65013) **10.30** FILM: Conspiracy of Hearts (65554346) **12.20pm** Hot Shots (6211013) **12.30** Working Lunch (89520) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (73903162)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2728704)
2.10 Darts: World Professional Championship Highlights of last night. Includes News at 2.40 and 3.25 (98342549)
5.30 Cricket: The Ashes Australia v England. Highlights of the fifth Test (568)
6.00 The Simpsons Marge lands the role of Blanche Dubois in an amateur musical production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (r) (T) (446520)
6.25 The Simpsons Mr Burns has Homer institutionalised on the basis of a written sanity test which Bart fills in on his father's behalf (r) (T) (540810)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (T) (787029)
7.00 Digital Planet New series on the marvels of modern communications technology, beginning with a look at how the computer hacker may soon become as great a threat as weaponry and the combat pilot (T) (4758)



Oliver Walston presents a new series *looking at British farming (7.30pm)*

7.30 CHOICE **Against the Grain** New series. Oliver Walston lifts the lid on British farming (T) (617)
8.00 Beat Route Jools Holland goes in search of his musical heroes, boogie woogie pioneers *Albert Ammons and* Jimmy Yancey (5/6) (T) (7278)
8.30 Food and Drink James Martin prepares spicy dishes for a salsa convention, while Antony Worrall Thompson cooks smoked haddock fish cakes (T) (9013)
9.00 Morecambe and Wise Eric and Ernie try folk-singing, *boxing and Cossack dancing* in an episode from 1962. Featuring the Kaye Sisters and Terry Lightfoot and his New Orleans Jazzmen (r) (T) (4549)
9.28 Suspended in Time (T) (223907)
9.30 CHOICE **Horizon Special** Account of the achievement of the Lincolnshire carpenter John Harrison in the field of naval navigation (T) (277346)
10.20 Clockwatch The world's most accurate mechanical timekeeper (T) (359181)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (219742)
11.13 Suspended in Time (T) (830029)
11.15 Darts: World Professional Championship *Round-up of the action (353810)*
11.55 Weather (519704)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show Bilko is granted a "perfect day" (r) (31785)
12.30am Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (85926)
6.00 GMTV (6024742)
9.25 Trisha (T) (2366568)
10.25 This Morning (T) (62967487)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (9682891)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (83346)
1.00 Shortland Street Guy *discovers the* truth about Troy (79758)
1.30 Home and Away Vinnie seeks Justine's forgiveness (T) (82617)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (2139297)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep The shopping quiz *(T) (979636)*
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2226568)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2216181)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2206704) **3.35** Tots TV (8755926) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (8735162) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5580159) **4.20** It's a *Mystery* (8534079) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1051029)
5.10 A Country Practice (6602510)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (115907)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (440346)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (394704)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (712100)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (87)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (581452)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner *stays at a holiday village in the south of* France, while Linda Lusardi reports from Benidorm (T) (8384)
7.30 Coronation Street Martin makes a shocking discovery (T) (471)
8.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Big-prize game show (T) (4704)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes A new home improvement series in which two teams of design experts help neighbours increase their properties' value (T) (3839)



Anna Chancellor stars as a police psychiatrist (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **The Vice** New police drama centred on the Metropolitan Police's vice unit. Starring Ken Stott, Anna Chancellor, Caroline Catz and David Harewood (1/6) (T) (2487)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (59891)
10.30 HTV *News and Weather (T)* (592617)
10.40 Nash Bridges Nash attempts to smash a counterfeiting ring (T) (327100)
11.40 Body Heat (1981) A lawyer gets FILM involved with a woman who persuades him to kill her husband. With William Hurt and Kathleen Turner. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (T) (52142568)
1.45am Football Extra Football League highlights (857330)
2.45 Dracula (1931) Bela Lugosi stars as the FILM vampire count *terrorising London.* Directed by Tod Browning (1869327)
4.00 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (5228817)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (78556719)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (53196)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (6215839)
1.00 High Road (79758)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9237094)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (970365)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2216181)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6602510)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (394704)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (592617)
3.55am Central Jobfinder '99 (2255124)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4542105)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (9682891)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6396756)
1.00 High Road (79758)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9237094)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (970365)
3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (2216181)
5.08 Birthday People (8820988)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6602510)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (91365)
10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (592617)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather (9682891)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away;
6.00 Meridian Tonight (907)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (87)
10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (592617)
5.00-5.30am Freescreen (53196)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6294346)
12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (6215839)
1.00-1.30 Upshot! (79758)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street;
6.23 Anglia Weather (893029)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (394704)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (639839)
10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (592617)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (45269988) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47222742) **9.00 The Cosby Show** (r) (T) (16890988) **9.30 The Cosby Show** (r) (T) (38894810) **10.00 FILM: The Four Feathers** (51730810) **12.05pm Here's One I Made Earlier** (T) (51768487) *12.30 Sesame Street (38805926) 1.00 Planed* **Plant** (54669100) **1.00 Ffwrdd a ni** (T) (54669100) **1.15 Ding Dong** (T) (54664655) **1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman** (T) (38804297) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (35017758) **3.00 Garden Doctors** (T) (58937687) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56585433) **4.00** *Fifteen-to-One* **Highlights** (T) (56504568) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (58593452) **5.00 Planed Plant** (53387182) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56584704) **6.00 Newyddion 6** *(T) (69463094)* **6.10 Heno** (T) (95165891) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (63822532) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56594181) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (57587146) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (72337443) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (24167704) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (19056723) **10.35 FILM: White Men Can't Jump** (T) (85302487) **12.40am Arthouse** (T) (45245124) **1.40 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.40am The Pink Panther (3002810)
6.00 Sesame Street (32346)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (94013)
9.00 The Cosby Show (r) (T) (76566)
9.30 The Cosby Show (r) (T) (40100)
10.00 The I Don't Care Girl (1953) Musical FILM biopic of the First World War entertainer Eva Tanguay. Mitzi Gaynor stars. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (T) (61605)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (3810)
12.00pm Sesame Street (56704)
12.30 Bewitched (T) (81988)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (97100)
1.30 Unsigned A disillusioned painter makes *a pact with a tramp (r) (55015159)*
1.50 The Spanish Gardener (1956) Drama FILM about a diplomat who becomes jealous of his son's growing friendship with their gardener. Dirk Bogarde, Michael Hordern and Jon Whiteley star. Directed by Philip Leacock (T) (61853549)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace New series. Behind the scenes at Hampton Court Palace (1/5) (T) (365)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (r) (T) (100)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1958988)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (4069346)
5.30 Pet Rescue New series (T) (636)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (549)
6.30 Hollyoaks Tony shows off (T) (29)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (709907)
7.55 Cuban Faces New series. The first in a week-long series of programmes to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution (1/5) (T) (616907)
8.00 Wild Tales The world of bat-eared foxes inhabiting the Kalahari Desert (T) (7365)



A rescue helicopter hovers over the burning *Scandinavian Star* (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Mayday** New series examining safety at sea focusing on *lessons learnt from disasters such as the* fire aboard the *Scandinavian Star* which claimed 158 lives (1/4) (T) (7159)
10.00 White Men Can't Jump (1992) FILM Basketball hustler Woody Harrelson teams up with fellow on-court con man Wesley Snipes to make a financial killing in LA. Comedy, with Rosie Perez. Directed by Ron Shelton (T) (90463075)
12.10am Mystery Train (1989) Trio of FILM interlinked stories all set around the night shift *at a seedy Memphis hotel.* Masatoshi Nagase and Elizabeth Bracco star. Directed by Jim Jarmusch (200476)
2.10 Frightened City (1961) London gangs FILM prepare to join forces but fall out over the money from protection rackets. Starring Herbert Lom and Sean Connery. Directed *by John Lemont (585766)*
4.00 Bulldog Jack (1934) A playboy takes FILM over from injured adventurer Bulldog Drummond and sets about bringing a *crooked gang to justice. Comedy thriller,* starring Jack Hulbert and Fay Wray. Directed by Walter Forde (8240921)
5.15 Pictures at an Exhibition The composer Mussorgsky (r) (4618124)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (7137297)
7.00 WideWorld Slogans and banners from the Victorian era (r) (T) (9225100)
7.30 Milkshake! (5902443)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (9956013)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1396704)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (1395075)
9.00 Housebusters (r) (T) (2072487)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4921742)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6755549)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2353297)
11.10 Leeza (r) (2233723)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1399391)
12.30 Family Affairs Annie drops a bombshell (r) (T); 5 News Update (9165520)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Maggie believes that Sheila may be the poisoner (T) (9224471)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9164891)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6585891)
2.30 Good Afternoon (4784655)



Whoopi Goldberg and Ray Liotta star in a sentimental drama (3.30pm)

3.30 Corrina Corrina (1994) Drama set in FILM the late 1950s, starring Whoopi Goldberg as a housekeeper who falls for widowed employer Ray Liotta and forms a close bond with his shy daughter. Directed by Jessie Nelson (T) (66887742)
5.35 Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Sunset Beach Events so far in the sunny soap; 5 News Update (3224966)
6.00 100 Per Cent (5446100)
6.30 Family Affairs Cat spies Annie leaving the house (T) (5437452)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6596907)
7.30 *Champions of the Wild New series.* Dedicated fan of tarantulas, Rick West, explains his interest in the species, and champions the cause for ending their capture from the wild and the trade in importing live specimens (T) (5433636)
8.00 Weather Front Kate Ledger, Paul Simons and Chris Thorncroft examine issues surrounding global weather systems (6505655)
8.30 The Great UFO Conspiracy The *phenomena of UFOs and the questions* surrounding their possible existence (T); 5 News Update (6584162)
9.00 Under Oath (1996) Two top cops learn FILM that their pay increase has been shelved and commit a terrible crime to get their own back on the authorities — then find *themselves assigned to investigate the* case. Thriller, starring Jack Scalia. Directed by Dave Payne (T) (52477988)
10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (8767389)
10.45 Second Best (1994) A shy postmaster FILM living in Wales attempts to adopt the boy he has befriended. Drama with William Hurt. Chris Menges directs (1609013)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Sporting magazine (79482747)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3252872)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5902227)

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1
7.00am Count Duckula (21181) **7.30** Chris Evans (24810) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (69538) **9.00** Sally (11365) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (39100) **11.00** Guilty! (28636) **12.00** Jenny Jones (42013) **1.00** Mad About You (20452) **1.30** *Jeopardy (30549)* **2.00** Sally (84162) **3.00** Jenny Jones (40181) **4.00** Guilty! (36988) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7487) **6.00** Married with Children (8891) **6.30** Friends (2471) **7.00** Simpsons (2988) **7.30** Simpsons (8655) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (87100) **9.00** First Wave (74636) **10.00** South Park (18033) **10.30** Seinfeld (15471) **11.00** Friends (37617) **11.30** Earth: Final Conflict (83704) **12.30am** Highlander (74124) **1.30** Long Play (5296872)

SKY BOX OFFICE
Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28)
Face/Off (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Home Alone 3 (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
***George of the Jungle* (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Fathers' Day (1997)

FILMFOUR
6.00pm Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe (1991) (91367988) **8.15 Cal (1984)** (95770433) **10.00** ***Nothing Personal* (1995)** (6239094) **11.30 Twenty Bucks (1993)** (7958520) **1.00am The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill, But Came Down a Mountain (1995)** (5390055) **2.40 Straight Out of Brooklyn (1991)** (8135501) ***4.05* Yojimbo (1961)** (8715898) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER
6.00am Drawl (1984) (53549) ***8.00* The Borrowers (1974)** (37164) **10.00 Hello Again (1987)** (32630) **12.00pm Matilda** [illegible]

SKY MOVIEMAX
5.05am Destroy All Monsters (1968) (83376810) **7.00** Femmes Fatales: Susan Sarandon (23549) **7.30 Movie Magic: Cities Under Siege** (8822891) **8.15 Action Heroes:** *Sean Connery* (2089346) **9.00 Jane Eyre (1996)** (95276) **11.00 The Right Connections (1997)** (88100) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Susan Sarandon (15520) **1.30 Movie Magic: Cities Under Siege** (8619839) **2.15** *Action Heroes:* **Sean** Connery (3151891) **3.00 Damnation Alley (1977)** (87520) **5.00 The Right Connections (1997)** (11655) **7.00 Jane Eyre** *(1996) (36013)* **9.00 Target Earth (1997)** (82655) **11.00 Adrenalin: Fear the Rush (1995)** (310655) **12.20am Showdown in Little Tokyo (1991)** (4607495) **1.40 Intimate Obsession (1996)** (454921) **3.15 Patty Hearst (1988)** (137563)

SKY CINEMA
4.00pm The Bandit of Sherwood Forest (1946) (8218704) **6.00 Every Girl Should Be Married (1948)** (7698617) **8.00 The Householder (1963)** (7691162) **10.00 Bombay Talkie (1970)** (1767094) ***11.50* The Days of Wine and Roses (1962)** (2383013) **1.50am Bad Medicine (1985)** (7573872) **3.30 The Virginian (1929)** (6407747)

TNT
9.00pm The Great Caruso (1951) (40347926) **11.00** ***The Roaring Twenties*** **(1939)** (21532452) **1.00am Savage Messiah (1972)** (21590476) **3.00 The Great Caruso (1951)** (40035704) **5.00** *Close*

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00am FA Cup Football Special **8.00** *Futbol Mundial* **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style **9.30** World Sport Special **10.00** Scottish Football **11.00** Watersports World **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** FA Cup Football Special **2.00** Spanish Football **4.00** Total Sport **4.30** What a Weekend **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a [illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Aerobics *7.30 Racing News* **8.00** Motorcycling **9.00** Live International Cricket **4.00pm** International Cricket **6.30** V-Max **7.00** Live FA Cup Special **10.15** World Windsurfing **10.45** Total Sport **11.15** Sports Centre **11.30** Live International Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00pm Darts: World Championship **3.00** World Windsurfing **3.30** V-Max **4.00** Motorcycling **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Total Sport **6.30** International Cricket **11.00** Cricket: Second Innings **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT
7.30am Rally **8.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **9.00** Nordic Combined Skiing **10.00** Women's Alpine Skiing **11.00** *Rally* **11.30** Ski-Jumping **1.00pm** Snowboarding **2.00** Alpine Skiing **3.00** Figure Skating **4.00** Tennis **5.30** Ten-Pin Bowling **6.30** Extreme Sports **8.30** *Trial* **9.30** Rally **10.00** Boxing **11.00** Offroad **12.00am** Rally **12.30** Close

UK GOLD
7.00am *Crossroads* **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Angels **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** The Missing Postman **10.40** Best of Live at Jongleurs **11.45** The Bill **12.15am** The Bill **12.45** Spender **1.40** The Onedin Line **2.30** Live at Jongleurs **2.55** with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS
6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** That's My Boy **8.30** Second Thoughts **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** *Emmerdale* Farm **1.00** *Nearest and* Dearest **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint [illegible]



Arsenal's Marc Overmars and Ray Parlour will be looking for FA Cup success against Preston North End (Sky Sports 2, 7pm)

CARLTON SELECT
5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Rising Damp **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** The 10 Percenters **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Rising Damp **12.30** Gridlock

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** Timon and Pumbaa **8.00** 101 Dalmatians **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Hercules **9.00** Art Attack **9.15** Nod's Newt **9.30** Recess **9.45** Pepper Ann **10.00** Boy Meets World **10.30** Smart Guy ***11.00*** *Teen Angel* **11.30** *Flash Forward* **12.00pm** Doug **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** **FILM: Enid Blyton: River of Adventure** [illegible] **8.00 FILM: Bristol (1996)** **9.30** Home *Improvement* **10.00** Dinosaurs ***10.30*** *The* Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK
6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** *The Incredible Hulk* **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** *The Mouse* and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New *Adventures of Jungle Book* **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk [illegible]

NICKELODEON
7.00am Sister Sister **1.30pm** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack **2.30** Kenan and Kel **3.00** Clarissa Explains It All **3.30** KaBlam! **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister ***5.30*** *Kenan and Kel* **6.00** *Sabrina the* Teenage Witch **6.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **7.00** Close

TROUBLE
7.00am USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest! **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempest! **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High

BRAVO
8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex **11.00 FILM: The Fly II (1989)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.30** Scary Sex **2.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.30** Cops **3.00 FILM: The Happy Hooker Goes to Hollywood (1979)** **5.00** L.A.P.D. **5.30** Bushes **6.00** *Close*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY
7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** *Roseanne* **8.30** *Just Shoot Me* **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Festival of Fun I **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected [illegible] **Volkin's Revenge (1995)** **11.45** Sci-Focus **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the *Paranormal* **1.00** ***FILM: Zone 39 (1993)*** **2.45** Sci-Focus **3.00** Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE
6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country — Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** Wood Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Gn Fishing

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **5.30** Jurassica **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Hunters **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Twisted Tales **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** Storm Force **10.00** Fire **11.00** Air Power **12.00am** Jaws in the Med **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke **1.30** Ancient Warriors **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET
12.00pm Animal X **12.30** Ocean Wilds: Galapagos **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **TV 2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of *Black Beauty* **6.30** *Lassie* **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: New Zealand **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild With Jeff Corwin: Los Angeles **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Tiger Hunt: The Elusive Sumatran **10.30** Breed all About It **11.00** Emergency vets **12.00am** Close

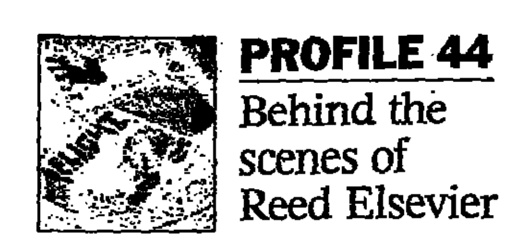
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7.00pm Kangaroo Questions **7.30** Amazon Bronze **8.00** Proboscis Monkeys **9.00** India in Focus: Snake Monkey **9.30** India in [illegible]

HISTORY
4.00pm World at War: *A New Germany* **5.00** Rockets: First Step to the Stars **6.00** Mummies: Hieroglyphs **7.00** Napoleon Bonaparte: The Glory of France

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** *Worrall Thompson Cooks* **11.00** *What's Cooking?* ***11.30*** *Coxon's Kitchen College* **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Winter Nosh **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Rustie's Real Cooks **2.00** Turner's Tour of Hong Kong **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Slice of Life **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Vin Ordinaire **4.30** An Umbrian Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING
6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Philbert the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** *Professor Bubble* **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** *Practical Parenting* **9.00** *Diet Show* **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** *Special Babies* **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** The Jerry Springer Show **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: Maid to Order (1987)** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV
5.00am Amar Kalhayen **5.30** Music Time **6.00** *Your Zindagi* **6.30** *Geet Gata Chal* **7.00** Faith **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Salaab **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Mujhe Chaand Chahiye **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Apna Desh** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Ake Pe Ika **4.00** Campus **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Deastan **5.30** Chalat Aur [illegible]



PROFILE 44
Behind the scenes of Reed Elsevier

BUSINESS

SLUMP 46
Roger Bootle considers the 1999 recession

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

Pressure grows for rate cut as job prospects worsen

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE BANK of England is facing renewed pressure to cut rates this week after a new survey published today reveals that employment prospects are at their worst for more than four years.

Leading economists are also predicting that the economy began to shrink in the last quarter of 1998, the first contraction in economic activity since 1992.

The City, however, is sharply divided on whether the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee will make a further cut in rates at its monthly meeting this week. Many analysts believe that having reduced rates by 1.25 per cent in the past three months, the Bank will opt to wait for fresh indications on the health of the economy.

There is also increasing evidence that a last-minute Christmas shopping rush may have resulted in a better than expected performance on the high street. Banks are reporting record cash machine withdrawals and debit card spending over the Christmas period. Barclays said that £1.29 billion was withdrawn from its machines in December.

However, the Manpower Quarterly Survey of Employment Prospects shows that job prospects in all sectors of the economy are beginning to decline and that the trend rate is now similar to that going into the recession of the early Nineties. The previously buoyant service sector is worst affected with nearly a quarter of companies expecting to reduce employment, compared with just 5 per cent planning to raise staffing levels.

Further bad news is expected in the publication of the gross domestic product data this month showing the economy effectively in recession. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, predicted that the Bank would wait to see the GDP data before cutting rates again. However, he cautioned that the Office for National Statistics may choose to be cautious in its first estimate of GDP — which is based on an analysis of only 40 per cent of the total data — because the figure is likely to prove pivotal.

Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, supported the view that the data will show that the economy contracted in the fourth quarter but added that the Bank is likely to reduce rates by a quarter point this month because weakening activity data has predominated since the last MPC meeting in December.

Two reports published by leading economic think-tanks today also support the view that the economy is now on the verge of a technical recession. However, Oxford Economic Forecasting and Cambridge Econometrics are optimistic that the economy will avoid a deep recession with growth totalling about 0.5 per cent this year and rising to between 1 and 2 per cent in 2000.

Pound faces turbulent euro future

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent, and Caroline Merrell

THE pound faces a "highly uncertain" future and could suffer some torrid trading as the single European currency finally became a reality, the City and the Bank of England cautioned last night.

John Townend, director for Europe at the Bank of England, said that the immediate outlook for sterling-euro trading is clouded. "It's a highly uncertain outlook, we'll just have to see in the market place how sterling behaves," Mr Townend said.

Most analysts expect the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as central banks and investors shift an estimated $1 trillion of assets into the new currency. Asian central banks, in particular, have indicated that they want to buy into euros to reduce their heavy reliance on dollars in their reserves.

As a result, many economists expect the pound to lose value against the euro, though there is a risk that the pound could also continue to be treated as a "safe haven" by investors.

Trapped between the dollar and the euro, sterling is likely to face some volatile trading. David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, said: "The euro is poised to be a strong currency that could threaten both the pound and the dollar. Over a period of months, the value of the pound against the euro is likely to fall."

Full-scale trading in the euro finally kicked off last night in Sydney, the first big currency market to reopen after the new year holiday, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price.

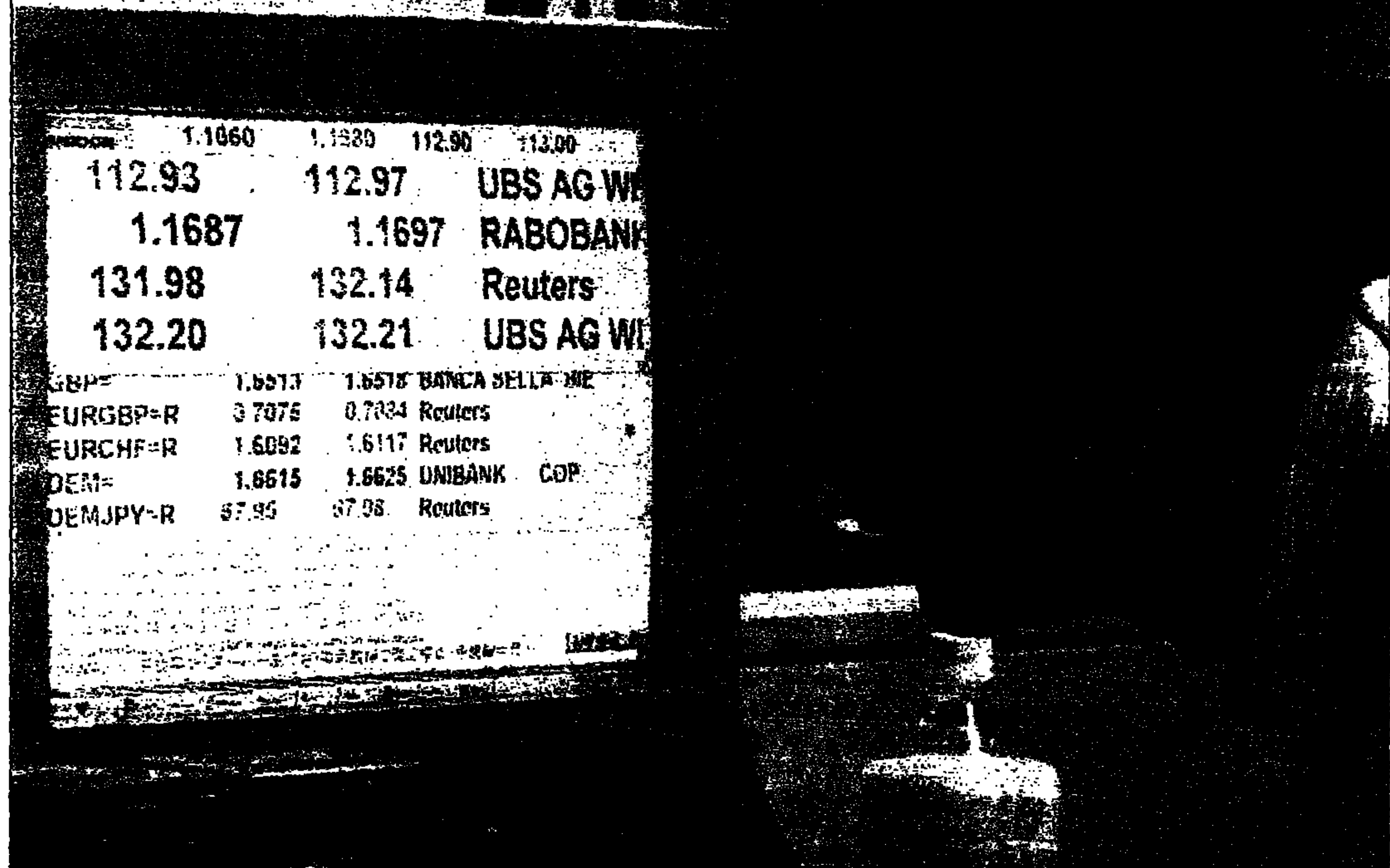
Sydney traders quoted an opening price of $1.1747, compared with the European Commission's official conversion price of $1.1685. The euro also strengthened against the pound, climbing from 70.54p to 70.80p.

Trade was reported to be light, a trend that is expected to continue in European markets today as dealers wait to see if any problems emerge at the end of the conversion process. The Bank of England, however, yesterday expressed confidence that the conversion process had gone to plan. David Clementi, the Deputy Governor who has been overseeing euro preparations, said: "The conversion weekend across the City has gone very smoothly indeed. People are well prepared."

The Bank's comments were supported by other financial institutions, with many reporting that they were able to send home early some of the estimated 30,000 people at work in the City over the weekend.

Nick Turdean, euro conversion manager at Credit Suisse First Boston, said that banks could lose money if they found that their software systems were not reconciling accounts correctly in euros. If this happened, the bank would have to stop trading.

Reports, 1, 6 and 43



Japanese debut: A money dealer checks the euro rate on his screen at the start of euro trading at a Tokyo foreign exchange brokerage yesterday

GEC joins race to buy Nats stake

By Caroline Merrell

GEC, which is believed to be close to agreeing a merger with British Aerospace, its defence rival, has emerged as a potential front-runner to buy the 51 per cent of the National Air Traffic Control Services (Nats) that has been put up for sale by the Government.

The electronics group headed by Lord Simpson of Dunkeld is believed to be one of a number of bidders interested in buying the stake in Nats.

Credit Suisse First Boston delivered a 180-page report on Nats to the Treasury and the Department of Transport just before Christmas. The Government is believed to favour a trade sale, rather than a straightforward flotation. Nats handles about 1.6 million flights a year and makes operating profits of £50 million.

However, the privatisation of Nats has a number of problems. One stumbling block has been the new £350 million air traffic control centre in Swanwick, Hampshire. Nats was forced to admit last year that the control centre could open five years late because of problems with a computer system being built for it by Lockheed Martin.

The privatisation has also hit problems because of government plans to build a £2 billion Scottish air traffic control centre at Prestwick, under the Private Finance Initiative. The plans could be in doubt because any revenue raised from the sale of Nats would be diminished by the project. The initiative, Sky Solutions, was to have been carried out in conjunction with Lockheed and Bovis. Under the plan the companies would design, build and operate the Scottish centre for 25 years.

The legislation for the Nats sell-off is not expected to be in place until the start of next year because of the need to decide how Nats will charge its customers.

The Government will retain a golden share in Nats but says it will not use its position to alter commercial decisions.

The sell-off of Nats was announced last summer, at the same time as the announcement of the sale of the Tote and the Royal Mint.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1605

ACROSS
1 Fighting force (4)
3 Conspiracy to convict (slang) (5-2)
8 Sacred vocal piece (7)
9 Classical prophetess (5)
10 Small fish, herring (5)
11 "Some village- —" (Gray); a Glasgow Park (7)
13 Two dots over vowel (9)
17 Set of clothes etc for baby (7)
19 Type of capital (architect.); of bond (chem.) (5)
20 Practise: a suite (5)
22 Top of boar's side (7)
23 Pressure position (3,4)
24 Limit: school period (4)

DOWN
1 Right of approach (6)
2 Robinson Crusoe's servant (3,6)
3 A boxer; he fit, we gather (anag.) (13)
4 India tea-growing state (5)
5 (Tide) go down (3)
6 Elec. cable supports (6)
7 Sanskrit sacred books: seen in Bhutan, traditionally (6)
12 Withdraw (9)
14 Too thin (6)
15 Side of bacon (6)
16 Shout in fear, laughter (6)
18 Taut, nervous (5)
21 Social insect. 1 ac variety (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1604
ACROSS: 1 Megastar 5 Aces 8 Cairn 9 Supremo 11 Bog 12 Yom Kippur 13 Ethnic 15 Sawyer 18 Expletive 19 Fug 20 Steeple 21 Idyll 22 Mask 23 Hysteria
DOWN: 1 Macabre 2 Going 3 Sunny side up 4 Assume 6 Cheaply 7 Scour 10 Philatelist 14 Hapless 16 Regalia 17 Misery 18 Epsom 19 Foyer

SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO
ACROSS: 1 Tutankhame(u)n 7 Obstructiveness 15 Repoint 16 Weakening 17 Misleader 18 Where there's a will there's a way 20 Outdo 21 Two-edged sword 23 Tadpole 24 Dumbfounds 27 Nimbus 29 Turboprop 32 Origami 34 Telegraph pole 37 Eased 39 Emotionally 40 Remark 41 Decaying 43 Ardently 44 Margin 45 Smithsonian 47 Three 48 Guided missile 50 Disturb 51 Reputable 54 Minnow 55 Two-wheeler 58 Artisan 60 Rackets player 63 Piano 65 The Charge of the Light Brigade 68 Undersold 69 Actuarial 70 Cremate 71 Hypersensitised 72 Ground staff
DOWN: 1 Throw good money after bad 2 Tippett 3 Noises off 4 Hotshot 5 Mower 6 Nearside 7 Overweening 8 Shields 9 Righteous 10 Commendation 11 Inspector 12 Emerald 13 Endeavour 14 Sari 19 Keep a dog and bark oneself 22 Old style 25 Mail order 26 Union flag 28 Brahma(i)n 30 Operators 31 Play safe 33 Alignment 35 Hardship 36 Eye-shadow 38 Spiritual 40 Regimen 42 Give away 46 Fire brigades 49 Shop steward 52 Patched up 53 Bangalore 54 Microwatt 56 Emptiness 57 Plaiting 59 Securer 61 Estates 62 Rubicon 64 Alabama 66 Hello 67 Gush

Goldsmiths poised to deepen retail gloom

By Dominic Walsh

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellery retailer that last month admitted being in bid talks, is today expected to add to the gloom pervading the high street with a disappointing Christmas trading statement.

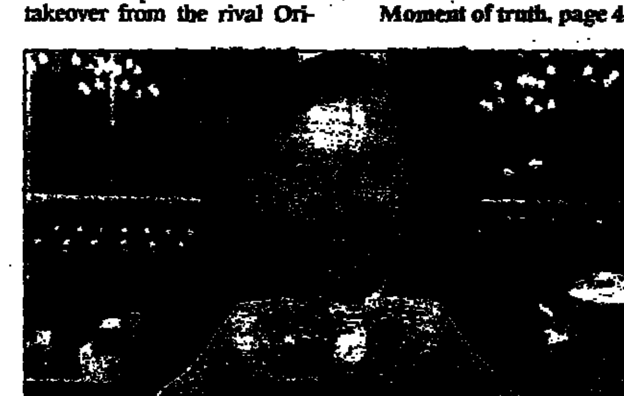
A source close to the group, which is thought to be in talks with Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, said yesterday: "There's very little good news coming out of the high street. Most people have had a pretty tough Christmas. In addition, last year's trading was boosted by windfalls."

However, today's trading update, which will cover the 48 weeks to January 4, is unlikely to make any reference to the takeover speculation that has lifted the Goldsmiths share price from a low of 99p to 169p in the past two weeks.

Jurek Piasecki, chairman and chief executive, is thought to have secured backing from Alchemy to take Goldsmiths private in a deal pitched at about 185p a share, valuing the jeweller at just over £44 million. It would be the second time that he has bought the company out. Two years after he became chairman in 1985 he accepted a £43 million takeover from the rival Oriflame, only to buy the business back for £30 million in 1988. It was valued at £43 million at flotation in 1990.

Goldsmiths last month admitted receiving a "very preliminary approach" to enter discussions on a takeover.

Moment of truth, page 45



Goldsmiths, led by Jurek Piasecki, gives a trading update today

Bid boost likely for LucasVarity

By Our City Staff

SHARES in LucasVarity are likely to receive a boost this morning amid mounting speculation that the motor components group has become a takeover target.

Heading the list of suitors mooted over the weekend is TRW, the Cleveland motor components and aerospace group. A year ago, the two companies formed a joint venture to develop power-assisted steering systems.

The rumours may be connected to suggestions that LucasVarity is considering reversing into a US auto components manufacturer. It recently had its plans to become a US company blocked by shareholders, but Victor Rice, its chief executive, believes a US quote is vital for it to participate in industry consolidation.

The list of potential US suitors includes Federal Mogul, Dana Corporation and Tenneco, while, in Europe, Valeo and Siemens are tipped.

Tay chiefs face coup attempt

By Robert Lea

THE boardroom row at Tay Homes, the northern housebuilder, will erupt into an open coup attempt today when a disaffected leading shareholder calls for a mass sacking of directors and the election of himself as chief executive.

Tay Homes, which has seen its shares steadily decline over the past five years, has been the subject of investor discontent led by Phillips & Drew, a 15 per cent shareholder.

Last month the Tay board received demands for a strategic review of the company. In addition the man calling for change, Richard Tice, chief executive of Sunley Group, the unquoted building company, and a 10 per cent shareholder in Tay, said that he should take over as chief executive.

Just before Christmas, however, Tay's chairman, Norman Stubbs, and its chief executive, John Swanson, rejected Mr Tice's demands.

Today Mr Tice, claiming the support of Phillips & Drew, will call for an extraordinary meeting of the company to remove Messrs Stubbs and Swanson, as well as Stephen Evans, the finance director, and Jack Green, non-executive director, from the board.

In their stead, the EGM proposal states that Mr Tice would become chief executive, backed by Peter Hedges, a 3i director, as chairman and Stewart Urry, a Binder Hamlyn partner, as finance director. Tim Walter, the former Five Oaks Investments director, would become a non-executive.

Mr Tice argues that over the past five years Tay has underperformed the FTSE all-share index by 60 per cent and the building and construction sector by 40 per cent.

It is thought that he would like to run Sunley side by side with Tay and that this move would forestall any bidder taking Tay at a substantial discount to net asset value.

